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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this guide is to analyze and describe the records of the U.S. House of Representatives in a format that makes them accessible to researchers. The guide is arranged in 25 chapters. Chapter 1 guides the researcher through the procedures that many have found useful to follow when doing research in the records of the House and the Congress. Chapters 2 through 21 contain the descriptions of the records of the standing committees of the House from 1789 through 1968. With two exceptions, these chapters correspond to the 20 committees that existed at the beginning of the 90th Congress, and also contain descriptions of the records of predecessor committees or other records that are related in some way. Chapters 22 through 24 describe the records of the select committees of the House, the records of joint committees of Congress, and the general records of the House from 1789 through 1968. Chapter 25 continues the descriptions of the preceding chapters for the period 1969 to 1988. It contains a brief survey of the major series of records that have been retired by the committees. Appendices list speakers, majority leaders, clerks, beginning and ending dates for each Congress, a glossary of legislative and archival terms used in the guide, a selected bibliography, a list of published and unpublished finding aids to House records, and a list of National Archives microfilm publications of House records. (JB)

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# Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives

## 1789-1989

## Bicentennial Edition

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# Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives

## 1789-1989
## Bicentennial Edition

Charles E. Schamel, Mary Rephlo, Rodney Ross, David Kepley,
Robert W. Coren, and James Gregory Bradsher

National Archives and Records Administration

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Clerk of the House of Representatives

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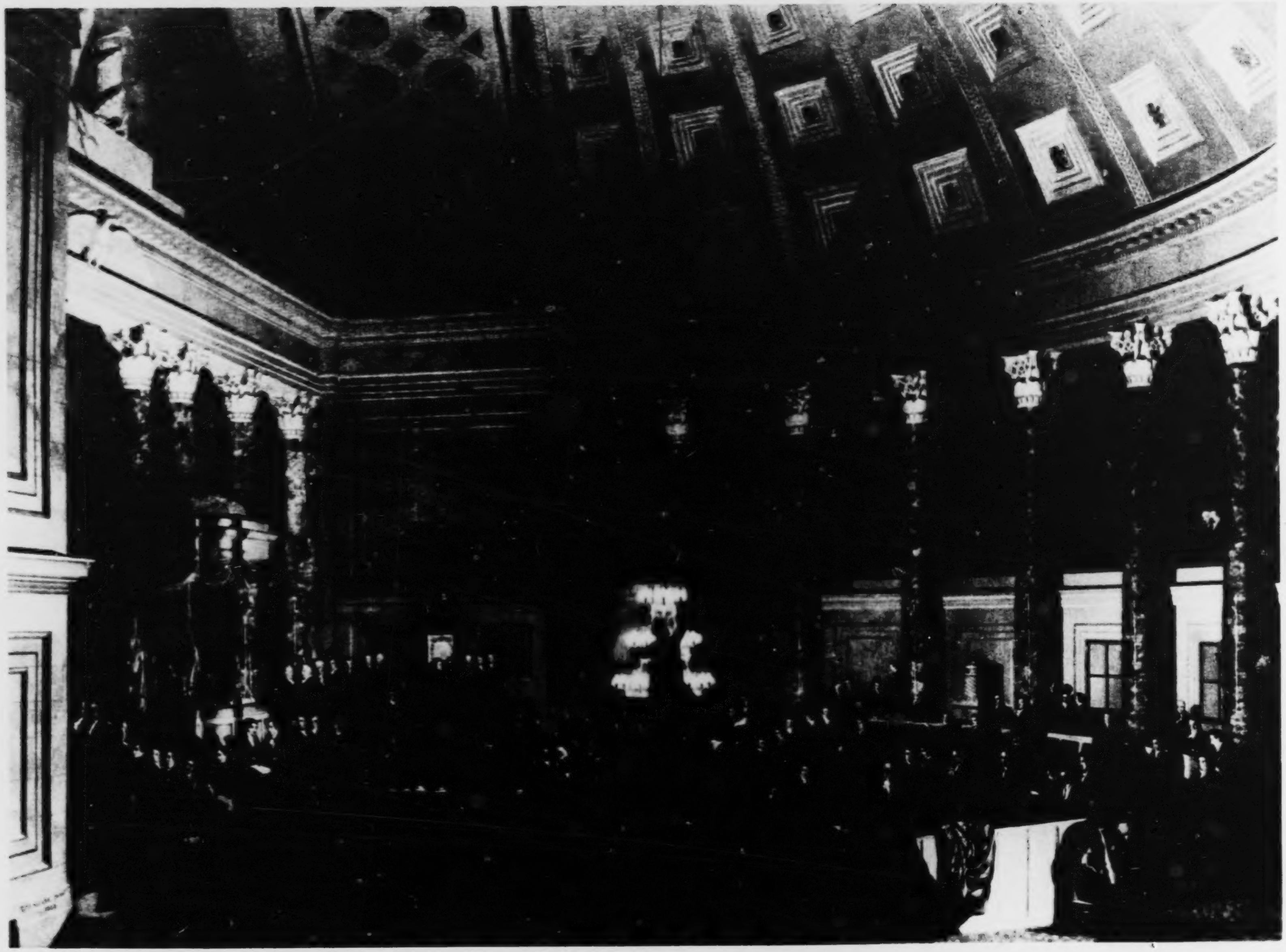

*The Old Hall of the House of Representatives is depicted as it appeared in 1821-22 in Samuel F. B. Morse's painting Congress Hall. (courtesy of the Corcoran Gallery of Art, Museum Purchase Gallery Fund 1911)*

# FOREWORD

Under the Rules of the House of Representatives, it is the duty of the Clerk of the House to take custody of the records "of the several committees of the House" and "transfer them to the National Archives and Records Administration for preservation subject to the order of the House."

Rules governing the proper disposition of House records and access to them have evolved gradually over the 200 year history of Congress. For many years during the early Congresses the records were stored in attics, basements, and storerooms within the Capitol complex itself, but as the Congress grew in size and complexity, the volume of records increased dramatically while storage space dwindled, and the records suffered from inadequate care.

The problems faced by Congress in dealing with its own records were reflected throughout the Government. In every agency and in all three branches of Government those charged with the preservation of historically valuable records found the task to be difficult.

In 1810, a House committee examined the disposition of the Nation's historical records and concluded that they were "in a state of great disorder and exposure; and in a situation neither safe nor convenient, nor honorable to the nation."

Then, in 1814, British troops invaded Washington and the Government was forced to flee the Capital City. Employees in the Clerk's office searched the city for wagons to haul the records of the House to safety. They found "every wagon, and almost every cart, belonging to the city, had been previously impressed into the service of the United States, for the transportation of the baggage of the army." The few wagons they found were already ladened with the personal effects of individuals or the official records of other agencies and offices. Fortunately the Secretary of the Senate had located transportation for the Senate records, which were saved. The House eventually found a cart and four oxen six miles outside the city. The cart was immediately brought to the Capitol and loaded with valuable House records that were removed to safety in the countryside. Unfortunately the British troops arrived at the Capitol before any further records could be saved. When the Capitol was set ablaze the House lost records of the Committees on Ways and Means, and Revolutionary War Claims, numerous petitions, most dated before 1799, and the secret journal of the Congress. The journal was kept out of sight in a private drawer, and in the hasty departure it was simply forgotten. Also lost to the fire was the Library of Congress, then housed in the Capitol Building.

Beginning in 1880, the Rules of the House directed all committees to turn over their records to the Clerk within 3 days of the final adjournment of Congress. This gave the Clerk better archival and administrative control over the diverse and growing body of the official committee papers, but it did not solve the problem of adequate storage. In 1901, more than 5,000 bound volumes of House records were transferred to the Library of Congress. Periodic transfers to the Library continued for the next 40 years.

In 1934, the National Archives was established as a depository of the records of all three branches of the Federal Government. While this marked the beginning of a new era in records preservation, it took the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 to mark a real departure in the systematic preservation of

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House records. The act established for the first time requirements for all committees to keep an ongoing record of committee votes and hearings, provided that committee records were to be kept separate from personal papers of Members and staff, required that the House transfer all of its records through 1941 (the first 76 Congresses) to the National Archives, and authorized the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate to transfer noncurrent records to the National Archives at the close of each Congress. The Federal Records Act of 1950 includes a provision that the Archivist of the United States can accept records that he has determined have permanent value, including records of Congress.

Since 1959, when the National Archives published a preliminary inventory of House records through the 79th Congress and estimated the total volume to be almost 10,000 cubic feet, the volume has increased to more than 30,000 cubic feet of records through the 99th Congress. The preservation of the institutional memory of the House of Representatives requires constant vigilance and periodic review. As an important part of this process the National Archives has undertaken this new guide to House records. This publication is a fitting tribute to the bicentennial of the House of Representatives, and stands as a major contribution to the ongoing process of saving our national heritage for future generations. Along with the companion the volume, *Guide to Records of the United States Senate at the National Archives, 1789-1989: Bicentennial Edition*, the guide to House records stands as tangible proof of the intentions of the Congress and the National Archives to meet their obligations to preserve these important records and to make them available for Congress and the American public.

Furthermore, for researchers seeking information about the personal papers of former Members of the House, the Office for the Bicentennial of the House of Representatives has completed a national survey of the locations of these collections in all fifty states. The survey results were published in *A Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.*

The House, and the Nation, have come a long way in the improvement of the care of our historical memory in the two centuries of government under the United States Constitution. And in this century we have witnessed the creation of the National Archives and the remarkable professional development of archivists, curators, and records management specialists.

These developments bode well for those of us who still see as a mandate the language of the 1810 House report which advised us to preserve the records of government in a manner "honorable to the nation."

I would like to express my gratitude to former Archivist of the United States Dr. Robert M. Warner, and his successors Dr. Frank G. Burke and Dr. Don W. Wilson, and to R. Michael McReynolds, Director of the National Archives Center for Legislative Archives, for encouraging and supporting this publication. I extend my warmest congratulations for a job well done to the staff of the National Archives who worked on this project, especially Charles E. Schamel, and to James Gregory Bradsher, Robert Coren, David Kepley, Mary Rephlo, and Rodney Ross. The diligence and professionalism of the National Archives staff in the care of the records of the House is sincerely appreciated.

DONNALD K. ANDERSON
Clerk of the House of Representatives

# PREFACE

The National Archives and Records Administration is pleased to contribute this book, the *Guide to the Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives, 1789–1989: Bicentennial Edition*, to the commemoration of the bicentennial of the U.S. House of Representatives. It describes the nearly 26,000 cubic feet of House records now entrusted to archival care.

Guides such as this one have been prepared at the National Archives since 1940 when the first general *Guide to the Material in the National Archives* was published. Over time, new editions of this general guide have been published and supplementary guides have been prepared focusing on specific subsets of Archives holdings. In this latter category are the *Guide to Federal Records Relating to the Civil War* (1962), *Civil War Maps in the National Archives* (1964), *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America* (1968), *Guide to Cartographic Records in the National Archives* (1971), *Guide to Materials on Latin America in the National Archives of the United States* (1974), *Guide to Records in the National Archives of the United States Relating to American Indians* (1981), and, most recently, Black History: A Guide to Civilian Records in the National Archives (1984). All of these publications are designed to make the records in the National Archives better known and easier to use.

At first glance, the subject documented by the records described in this guide is the United States House of Representatives. As the reader will quickly discover, however, the records discussed here document a subject no less broad than the United States itself. For two hundred years both institutions and individuals have sought the attention of the legislative branch of Government. The records resulting from this contact reflect a wide range of American concerns, desires, prospects, plans, and problems. It is our hope that, with the assistance of this guide, all who seek to understand the Nation's past will recognize the records of the House of Representatives as a unique historical source. By doing so, they will be extending the commemoration of the House's bicentennial well beyond this anniversary year.

DON W. WILSON
Archivist of the United States

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The task of writing and publishing a comprehensive guide to the records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives was truly a team effort of many people both on Capitol Hill and in the National Archives. The project included archivists, historians, librarians, political scientists, curators, editors, and others who willingly contributed to its completion. The Clerk of the House, Donnald K. Anderson, and his staff, and the Historian of the House Office for the Bicentennial, Raymond W. Smock, and his staff, encouraged, assisted, and reviewed the work of the project since its conception in 1985. The Librarian of the House and the Curator of the Architect of the Capitol also contributed to or reviewed sections of the guide. The committment of the National Archives to complete this volume for the bicentennial celebration of the House was significant, and it included numerous offices within the agency and many staff members outside the Center for Legislative Archives.

The work of the people listed below contributed in various ways to the completion of the project, and was greatly appreciated by the publication staff: Margaret Adams, Shelby Bale, Patricia Bias, Barbara Burger, Jan Danis, Dallas Dendy, Nola Freeman, Michael Goldman, James Harwood, Edie Hedlin, William Heynen, Mary Knill, Jeffrey Lash, John Lemanowicz, Karen Levenback, Raymond Lewis, Beth Mallonee, Cynthia Miller, Virginia Purdy, Robert Reynolds, Bernard Robin, Joseph Simpson, Peter Smith, Charles South, Daniel Stokes, Maryellen Trautman, Leslie Waffen, Reginald Washington, Patricia Welch, Bobbye West and Barbara Wolanin. Robert Kvasnicka of the Archival Publications Staff was particularly critical to the project, having provided guidance and serving as editor for this volume and its companion volume describing Senate records.

R. MICHEAL MCREYNOLDS, *Director*
Center for Legislative Archives

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# INTRODUCTION

This *Guide to Records of the United States House of Representatives at the National Archives, 1789-1989: Bicentennial Edition* is a major component of the National Archives celebration of the bicentenary of the United States Congress. It provides an overview of the unpublished records of the United States House of Representatives that are held at the National Archives. A companion volume describes the records of the United States Senate. The guides have been researched and written by the staff of the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives, and published in cooperation with the Senate and House of Representatives, in order to facilitate research in these important groups of records.

The purpose of this guide is to analyze and describe the records of the House of Representatives in a format that makes them accessible to Congressional staff, Government officials, historians, social scientists, and non-academic researchers. This volume is a broad survey designed to give researchers a sense of the magnitude and scope of the records and to suggest both traditional and novel ways to use them in a variety of research fields.

The guide is intended to supplement and extend, but not to supplant, the description of House records provided in previous finding aids issued by the National Archives, primarily Preliminary Inventory 113, *Records of the House of Representatives, 1789-1946*, which was published in 1959.[1] The inventory provides 587 pages of rigorously researched and carefully crafted description of some 9,100 linear feet of records from the 1st to the 79th Congresses. This guide provides a different perspective on the records that are described in the preliminary inventory and extends the description to include over 20,000 feet of records from the period between 1947 and 1988.

The preliminary inventory is an essential research tool for anyone wishing to research the records of the House, but its organization facilitates research relating to specific events or time periods. In the inventory the records of the House are described chronologically by Congress, and thereunder by record type or series and by committee of referral. A listing of subjects that are found in each series provides the researcher with a wealth of detailed information.

This guide provides a broad overview of the records of each *committee* rather than the records of each *Congress*, thereby facilitating research on a given subject or a congressional committee over a long period of time. The guide is written in a narrative format and explains the relationships between the various series of records and the practices and procedures that affected their creation. The functions and jurisdictions of the various committees, and the principles, practices, and rules of the House that determine which documents are referred to which committee are discussed in the "history and jurisdiction" portion of each committee description.

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[1] Buford Rowland, Handy Fant and Harold Hufford, *Preliminary Inventory Number 113: Records of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1946* (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1959).

The jurisdictions or responsibilities of most of the committees prior to the reorganization in 1946 were often vaguely defined, and in many cases consisted only of a statement to the effect that documents on subjects relating to the name of the committee would be referred to it. In order to provide a fuller discussion of the actual jurisdiction of the committees a survey of the subjects that were considered by each of them is included. These subjects were determined either by searching the House *Journals*, the *Annals of Congress*, the *Congressional Globe*, the *Congressional Record*, or by analyzing the records of the committees. This "fleshing-out" of the formal jurisdiction statements is begun in the history and jurisdiction statement, and completed with the description of the records actually preserved for each committee. In this way the guide describes the records that have been preserved, and also provides some background on the rules and relationships that have governed their creation.

The guide is arranged in 25 chapters and includes several appendixes. **Chapter 1** guides the researcher through the procedures many have found useful to follow when doing research in the records of the House and the Congress. Many researchers who write to or visit the National Archives are unfamiliar with published sources of information, the published records of Congress, and the published finding aids to these sources. Often the information sought is available to researchers locally in Government depository libraries. Chapter 1 describes the published records of Congress and related published research tools. In addition to highlighting the relation of the published to the unpublished records in the National Archives custody, the chapter provides general information about the filing system and arrangement of the unpublished (paper) records, briefly discusses the cartographic, audiovisual, and machine-readable records that are in the custody of the National Archives, and explains the rules governing access to House records. The introductory chapter also provides background on the recordkeeping practices of both Houses of Congress, explains how to approach some common research questions, and illustrates the proper format for citing the records of Congress in publications.

**Chapters 2 through 21**, the heart of the book, contain the descriptions of the records of the standing committees of the House from 1789 through 1968 (1st-90th Congresses). The twenty standing committee chapters are organized along lines that were suggested by the development of the committee system of the House. They correspond roughly to the committee structure as it existed in the late 1960's.

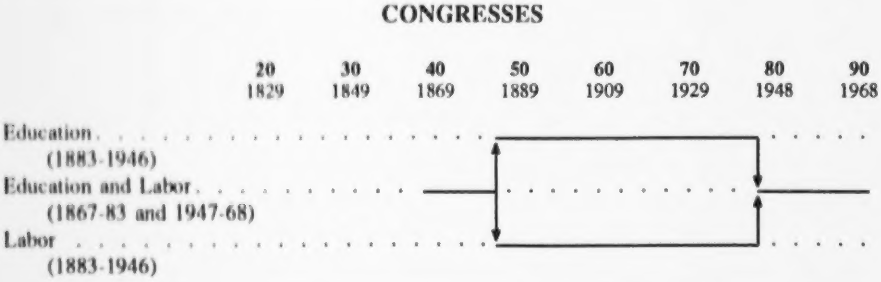
With two exceptions, Chapters 2 through 21 correspond to the 20 committees that existed at the beginning of the 90th Congress (1967-68). The first exception is Chapter 6 on the "Claims Committees" which is included even though all of the committees discussed in that chapter were abolished long before 1967. The second exception is the absence of a separate chapter on the House Un-American Activities Committee, which was not abolished until 1977. The records of that committee are discussed briefly in Chapter 25 along with other more recent records that have not yet been finally arranged and described.

Each of the other standing committee chapters contains, in addition to the description of the records of the standing committee named in its title, descriptions of the records of predecessor committees or other records that are related in some way. In most cases the predecessor committees were abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, but some of them had been terminated at earlier dates, and the subjects in their jurisdictions transferred to other committees.

The timeline tables on the chapter title pages are graphic representations of the history or genealogy of the committees named in the chapter title. The tables give the names and dates of the committees that are discussed in the chapter.

The horizontal lines show the period of existence of each committee in years. The vertical lines with arrows indicate a movement of jurisdiction. Jurisdictional shifts are sometimes but not always explicitly stated in the changes in House rules. The timelines thus provide what amounts to a "family tree" for each of the modern House committees.

The timeline below, for example, shows that a Committee on Education and Labor was created in 1867 and existed until 1883. In 1883 the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction split between a new Committee on Education and a Committee on Labor—as shown by the arrows. These two committees existed until 1946 when they were abolished under the reorganization act and their jurisdictions converged in the new Committee on Education and Labor. The timeline ends in 1969 because that is the cutoff date for the description contained in the chapter. The Committee on Education and Labor is still in existence as of the opening of the 101st Congress in 1989 and records after 1969 are briefly described in Chapter 25.



**Chapters 22 through 24** describe the records of the select committees of the House, the records of joint committees of Congress, and the general records of the House for the period 1789 through 1968. **Chapter 25** continues the descriptions from the preceding chapters for the period 1969 to 1989 (the 91st-100th Congresses). It contains a brief, largely quantitative, survey of the major series of records that have been retired by the committees.

The guide is rigidly formalized, and the descriptions of the records, especially those of the standing committees, are constructed according to a descriptive format that requires some explanation. The descriptions of the records of the standing committees are organized in two parts: the **history and jurisdiction statement**, and the **records statement.**

The **history and jurisdiction statements** generally consist of a very brief discussion of the creation of the committee, its jurisdiction and some of the significant jurisdictional changes, and the termination of the committee if necessary, noting, when possible, the reasons for some of these events. In most cases the sources of the information contained in these statements are the House rules as they are found in the House *Journals*, Hinds' and Cannon's *Precedents* or in the *Congressional Record* or its predecessors. These sources are discussed in Chapter 1.

The **records statements** for each committee are introduced with a table showing the types and quantity of the records available for that committee. In most cases one table shows all of the records of the committee, but for those committees that existed for long periods of time, especially those that existed before the 1946 reorganization and continued to function after that date, two or more tables have been used. For most of these committees one table shows the records of the committee prior to 1946 and another table shows those for the period from 1946 through 1968. Separate tables and separate descriptions of the records of each committee for the periods before and after 1946 are necessary because the nature of the records of almost all of the committees began to change dramatically at that time.

The "record types" column of each table identifies the kinds of records available: **Minute books, docket books, committee papers, petitions and memorials, bill files**, and occasionally a miscellaneous category such as **other bound volumes**. The column titled "volume" shows the number of volumes of bound records, and gives the approximate measurements in linear feet or inches for loose papers. The periods for which each type of record is available are shown both by dates and by Congress number. The table for the records of the Claims Committee is shown below:

***Records of the Committee on Claims, 3d-79th Congresses (1794-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 22 vols. | 1845-1903 | 29th-57th |
| Docket Books | 75 vols. | 1825-45, 1847-1909<br>1911-34 | 19th-28th, 30th-60th<br>62d-73d |
| Other Bd. Recds. | 20 vols. | 1793-1867 | 3d-39th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 40 ft. | 1795-97, 1799-1869<br>1871-73, 1877-91<br>1895-97, 1905-11 | 4th, 6th-40th<br>42d, 45th-51st<br>54th, 59th-61st |
| Comm. Papers | 23 ft. | 1793-1803, 1805-1938<br>1941-46 | 3d-7th, 9th-75th<br>77th-79th |
| Bill Files | 272 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |

TOTAL: 335 ft. and 117 vols. (28 ft.)

Each table is followed by a discussion of the kind of information that can be found in each series of records listed in the table. The bulk of the information about the subjects handled by each committee comes in the detailed descriptions of the petitions and memorials and the committee papers, but some mention should be made of the way in which the minute books, the docket books, and the bill files have been described. The minute and docket books document the administrative functions of each committee, and the type of information they provide varies little from one committee to another. The amount of descriptive detail provided for these series varies from one chapter to another depending to a large extent upon the quantity and nature of the information contained in the volumes. The term "bill files" is used to identify those files kept by the committees on the legislation they considered. These files are also referred to as "legislative files," "legislative case files," and "legislative bill files."

The content of bill files and the way they have been preserved varies from committee to committee. Some committees kept the most complete file on each bill and resolution in the records of the full committee, while others kept them in the subcommittees. In some committees the minority members kept separate bill files on important legislation. The records preserved as bill files for some committees contain all the correspondence, hearings, reports, and other documents related to each piece of legislation, while the files preserved by other committees consist only of a copy of each bill and resolution referred to the committee.

The guide also includes as appendixes lists of Speakers, Minority Leaders, Clerks, beginning and ending dates for each Congress, a glossary of legislative and archival terms used in the guide, a selected bibliography, a list of published and unpublished finding aids to House records, and a list of National Archives microfilm publications of House records.

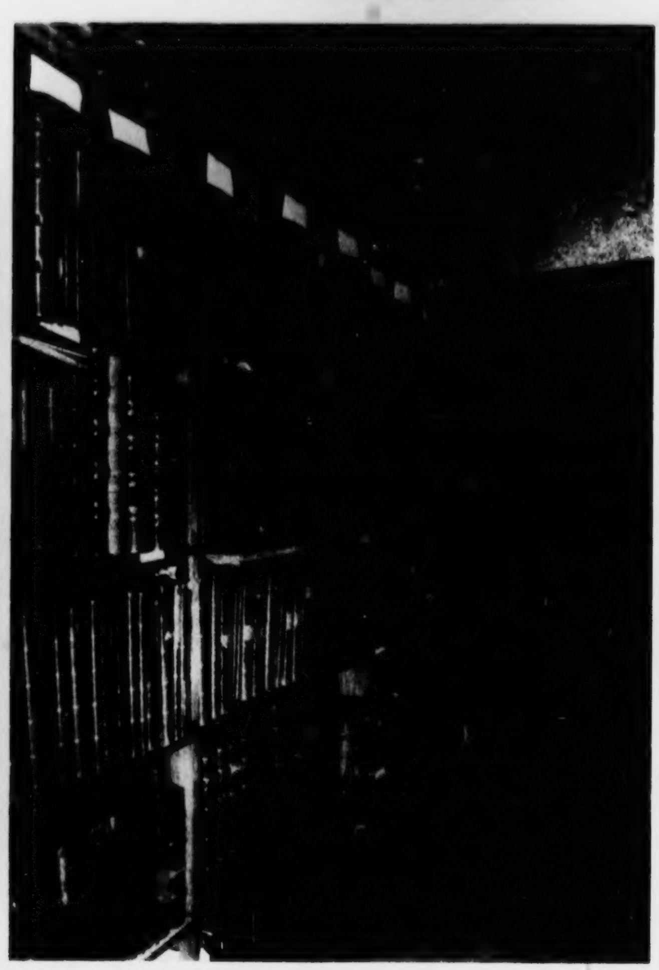
Researchers interested in additional information about the records of the United States House of Representatives should write to: Center for Legislative Records, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

Charles E. Schamel
Washington, DC 1988

# Chapter 1

# AN INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS

*These photographs show the conditions in the attic of the House wing of the Capitol when the House records of the first 23 Congresses were stored there prior to transfer to the National Archives in 1937. Shown below are a few of the many bound volumes, including the minutes and dockets of many House committees that were stored in room B-100. (NAD 186, 195, 202)*



# CHAPTER 1

## AN INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCH IN THE RECORDS OF CONGRESS

**1.1** In 1937, after a National Archives appraiser first examined the records of the United States House of Representatives, he concluded that the unbound records of the House contained a "great wealth of material touching every phase of our national existence."[1] Fifty years later that assessment is still valid. A discussion of research techniques best suited to locate information in that "great wealth" of original records and related printed materials forms the bulk of this chapter.

### Background

**1.2** Before their transfer to the National Archives most records of Congress had been housed in the offices, attics, basements, and storage rooms of the Capitol. They had suffered from neglect, vermin, and pilferage, abuses common to most collections of older Government records housed in unsuitable and unsupervised storage areas. In addition, when the British invaded Washington, DC, House records were subjected to a hasty evacuation that proved to be disastrous. The Senate successfully removed its records from the city, but the House was not so fortunate. Having waited too long to secure wagons, the Clerk of the House found that, "every wagon, and almost every cart, belonging to the city, had been previously impressed into the service of the United States, for the transportation of the baggage of the army." While some records were saved, others such as the secret journal of the Congress and a great many petitions were lost to the fire when the British burned the Capitol. The incident caused the Clerk of the House, Patrick Magruder, to resign.[2]

**1.3** While the fire destroyed some records of the House, the rules of Congress affected the completeness of Senate records. Before 1946, Senate committees were instructed to return to the Secretary of the Senate at the end of a Congress all papers "referred" to the committee, but the directive (Rule 32) said nothing about materials received directly by the committee or created by the committee. Also, it was not clear whether the records of special and select committees were under the Secretary's jurisdiction. Consequently, some records probably were not preserved. The Clerk of the House was more fortunate in this regard. In 1880, House rules required that all committee records be delivered to the Clerk within three days after the final adjournment of each Congress and that permission of the committee that originated a record was necessary for the withdrawal of records. This greatly increased the Clerk's control over these materials.[3]

**1.4** As the 20th century approached, both Houses of Congress experienced overcrowding. In 1900, the House temporarily solved this problem by transferring some 5,000 of its oldest bound volumes to the Library of Congress and continued to transfer some of its records to the Library for the next 40 years. Despite their new location, these records were still, as the statute stated: "part of the files of the House of Representatives, subject to its orders and rules."[4]

**1.5** In 1934, the National Archives was established as the depository for the historic records of the Federal Government, namely all permanently valuable records of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. A preliminary survey by the Archives staff in late 1936, revealed that the Secretary of the Senate had been overwhelmed by his responsibility to protect the Senate's records. The Archives report indicated that some materials were on the floor in damp rooms where they were subject to "extensive growths of mold and fungi. . . . Numerous signs of insect damage indicate an extensive infestation by both slow and fast moving insects. The presence of rodents was also noted in Room 5." The National Archives recommendation was to transfer all but the most recent of the Senate's records to the new Archives building. In April 1937, the Senate sent approximately 4,000 cubic feet of records to the National Archives.[5]

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[1] For the report on House records, see T. R. Schellenberg to Thomas Owen, Apr. 9, 1937, Memoranda from Deputy Examiners, Accessions Division, Records of the National Archives, Record Group 64, National Archives, Washington, DC (hereafter referred to as Schellenberg, RG 64, NA). For general works on the subject, see Buford Rowland, 11Recordkeeping Practices of the House of Representatives," *National Archives Accessions*, Jan. 1957, pp. 1-19; Richard A. Baker, "The Records of Congress: Opportunities and Obstacles in the Senate," and Anna Kasten Nelson, "Disorder in the House: The Inaccessible Record," both in *The Public Historian* (Summer 1980), pp. 62-72 and 73-83, respectively; Patricia Aronsson, "Congressional Records as Archival Sources," *Government Publications Review*, 1981, pp. 295-302.

[2] Rowland, "Recordkeeping Practices of the House," pp. 3-4; *American State Papers, Class X-Miscellaneous*, 2: 245.

[3] Thad Page, "Memorandum Re Records of the Congress," Jan. 21, 1946, Legislative Records Branch, RG 64, NA (hereafter referred to as LRB, RG 64, NA); Rowland, "Recordkeeping Practices of the House," pp. 7-8.

[4] 31 Stat 642; Rowland, "Recordkeeping Practices of the House," pp.11-13.

**1.6** Securing the transfer of the records of the House, however, was not so easy. In late 1936, the Archivist of the United States received permission from the Clerk to examine House records. From January through March 1937, T. R. Schellenberg of the National Archives surveyed the House's historic records still stored in the Capitol building. He reported many of the same conditions that existed for Senate records, noting that some were: "exposed to extremes of heat and cold, to an accumulation of dust, to neglect, and accessible for pilfering." In another instance: "Room contains a slop sink, and has a leaking joint causing partial destruction of records of the 47th Congress. Room dirty and ill-kept. Records infested with vermin." To buttress its case the Archives sent a photographer to record these conditions. The photographs and the examiner's report were sent to the Clerk. A draft resolution authorizing the transfer, identical to the Senate resolution, was prepared by the Archives and delivered to the chairman of the House Committee on the Library. The Committee obligingly reported out a resolution and report to the Archives liking. For a variety of reasons, however, the House chose not to transfer its records to the National Archives until nearly a decade later.[6]

**1.7** Although the transfer of House records awaited the passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, records storage continued to be a problem for the House. In late 1944, the Washington Post reported that the House was in a quandary as to what to do about the mountains of records created by a number of special committees, such as the House Un-American Activities Committee. Representative Everett Dirksen of Illinois suggested that Congress should establish "an archives bureau for the preservation of the voluminous records of the special committees." Archivist Solon J. Buck suggested meeting with Dirksen to offer assistance if Congress really wanted a separate archives. "On the other hand," he continued, "the interested members of Congress should know," that the National Archives could be used "effectively for their purposes, with confidential records under seal and to be consulted only under authorization of specified officers of Congress." Shortly thereafter, Thad Page, the National Archives legislative liaison, contacted Dirksen and others offering the Archives help in setting up a separate congressional facility. Page noted that: "We feel that since Congress has already provided facilities here that would insure their preservation it would be the part of economy to use them." He enclosed copies of the 1937 resolution and report from the House Committee on the Library favoring the transfer of House records to the National Archives. A day later, Dirksen announced that he would introduce a bill to effect the transfer.[7]

**1.8** In December 1944, Congress formed a joint committee to study the organization of Congress. This gave the National Archives and the historical community a chance to present its case on a whole range of congressional records problems. On the Senate side the inadequacies of Rule 32 were, of course, paramount. A change in the rule giving the Secretary authority over all committee records, not just those that were referred, was recommended. Also recommended was the transfer of the records of the House to the National Archives. The results of the joint committee's deliberations was the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.[8]

**1.9** The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 became a milestone for the archives of Congress. First it required committees to maintain a record of their proceedings, providing for the first time in history a continuous record of committee votes and hearings.

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[5] 48 Stat 1122-24; Public Law 73-432; Arthur Kimberly to the Director of Archival Service, Dec. 21, 1936, LRB, RG 64, NA; Frank McAlister, Accession Inventory no. 59, Apr. 1, 1937, LRB, RG 64 NA; S. Res. 99, 75th Cong.

[6] Schellenberg, RG 64, NA; Administrative Secretary to the Archivist, July 5, 1938, LRB, RG 64, NA; House Report 917, 75th Cong.; the photographs are in H. Res. 222, Committee on the Library, Legislative Files (HR 75A-D22), 75th Cong., Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233, NA.

[7] *Washington Post*, Nov. 19, 1944, attached to Archivist's note to Administrative Assistant, Nov. 20, 1944, LRB, RG 64 NA; Page to Alfred Elliot, Nov. 28, 1944, LRB, RG 64, NA; Page to Dirksen, Nov. 28, 1944, LRB, RG 64, NA; Dirksen to Buck, Nov. 29, 1944, LRB, RG 64, NA.

[8] Harold Hufford to Page, Jan. 18, 1945, LRB, RG 64, NA; Buck to George Galloway, Feb. 19, 1946, LRB, RG 64, NA; Page, "Memorandum Re Records of Congress," Jan. 21, 1946, LRB, RG 64, NA.

In addition, the act provided that a legislator's committee staff and personal staff had to remain separate, thereby reducing the possibility that personal papers and committee records would become intermixed. Finally, the Secretary was given greater authority over all Senate committee records and the House was required to transfer all of its records for the first 76 Congresses (through 1941) to the National Archives. The section of the statute governing the records of Congress directed that:

> The Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives, acting jointly, shall obtain at the close of each Congress all the non-current records of the Congress and of each congressional committee and transfer them to the National Archives for preservation, subject to the orders of the Senate or the House of Representatives, respectively.[9]

The traditions of the House concerning committee records had been codified and extended to the Senate.

**1.10** The passage of the Federal Records Act of 1950, completed the legal structure that currently governs the records of Congress. This act empowered the Administrator of General Services (an authority since transferred to the Archivist of the United States) to accept for deposit with the National Archives "the records of any Federal agency or of the Congress of the United States that are determined by the Archivist to have sufficient historical or other value to warrant their continued preservation by the United States Government."[10]

## Records of Congress in the National Archives

### *Textual Records*

**1.11** The textual records of the Congress, nearly 50,000 cubic feet of material, are administered by the Center for Legislative Archives of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). The Center has custody of eight record groups three of them composed of the records of the Congress, itself, four composed of the records of legislative organizations, and one composed of the record set of U.S. Government publications—sometimes referred to as the Government Printing Office (GPO) collection. They are: The records of the U.S. Senate (Record Group 46), the records of the U.S. House of Representatives (Record Group 233), the records of Joint Committees of Congress (Record Group 128), the operating records of the Government Printing Office (Record Group 149), the records of the Temporary National Economic Committee (Record Group 144), the records of various congressionally created commissions (Record Group 148), the records of the General Accounting Office, 1921- (Record Group 411), and the publications of the U.S. Government (Record Group 287).

**1.12** The overwhelming majority of the records, over 46,000 as of 1987, comprise the records of the Senate and House of Representatives. In general, they span the years 1789 to the present with no fixed cutoff dates for either the House or the Senate. They include materials referred to and generated by the many committees of Congress, as well as the records of the offices of the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Few private papers of Senators and Representatives are included among the records.

### *Organization of the Records of the House and the Senate*

**1.13** An understanding of the arrangement of the records is crucial in formulating a strategy for locating relevant materials. The National Archives has organized the records of each major administrative unit of government into record groups. As stated above, the records of Congress in the National Archives comprise three record groups: Records of the U.S. Senate (Record Group 46), Records of the U.S. House of Representatives (Record Group 233), and Records of Joint Committees of Congress (Record Group 128).

**1.14** Below the record group level the records of the House, 1789-1962, and the records of the Senate, 1789-1946, are arranged primarily by Congress, thereunder by activity and type of records or series, and thereunder by committee. This basic arrangement is reflected in the classification scheme developed by the National Archives in the late 1930's. Under this scheme each series of records was given an alpha-numeric file number that signified where the records stand in relation to the entire body of congressional records. All of the file numbers assigned to the general records of the House through 1946 are listed in the following National Archives publication: *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States House of*

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[9] 60 Stat 812.

[10] 44 USC 2118 and 2107.

*Representatives, 1789-1946* (2 vols.). Senate file numbers are listed in a loose leaf inventory available from the Center for Legislative Archives. These finding aids are invaluable for anyone doing extensive research in congressional records.

**1.15** Because many of the documents cited in the chapters of this guide are identified by file numbers, the following analysis of the various elements comprising a file number, such as HR 34A-G17.2, is provided. In general the letters and numbers to the left of the hyphen identify the Congress and congressional activity involved, while the ones to the right of the hyphen indicate the series and file segment within the records of an individual Congress in which a file is located.

**1.16** The first element of the file number is either HR or SEN, which indicates that the record is either a House or a Senate record. The next number identifies the Congress in which the record was either created or referred. Beginning in 1789 with the First Congress, a new Congress has convened every two years. To determine the Congress in session for a given time period, consult Appendix F.

**1.17** The next letter in the file number signifies the category of congressional activity with which the record was involved. These letters are common to all Congresses and do not change. For House records the categories are: "A" records of legislative proceedings, "B" records of impeachments, and "C" records of the Clerk of the House. The most voluminous category of records relate to legislative proceedings. Legislative proceedings include the consideration of bills and resolutions, the referral of petitions and memorials, the recording of this activity in minute books and journals, the receipt of messages from the executive branch, and election records. Records of impeachments document Congress' constitutional prerogatives to impeach and convict certain officials in the executive and judicial branches. The Clerk of the House performs numerous responsibilities, such as maintaining the Journal, examining legislation for accuracy, and in the 20th century, processing filings by lobbyists and candidates for Congress.

**1.18** Senate records are arranged into similar categories. "A" still designates records of legislative proceedings, but "B" stands for records of executive proceedings, which relate to the consideration of treaties and nominations. Senate records relating to impeachments are therefore labelled category "C." The Senate official who performs duties similar to the Clerk of the House is the Secretary of the Senate, whose records are filed in category "D."

**1.19** Within each category records are further arranged by record type or series. These series include journals, petitions referred to committees, committee reports and papers, and papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions. In the file number, the letter following the hyphen designates the series. Unlike the letters signifying the category of activity, which do not change from Congress to Congress, the letters designating the series change because new types of records or series have been created. Consequently, the "G" designation for the 34th Congress stands for Petitions and Memorials, but the same series under the 50th Congress is designated "H."

**1.20** The records within each series are arranged in various ways depending on the nature of the records. The three most prominent and heavily used series—committee papers, papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions, and petitions and memorials referred to committees—are usually arranged alphabetically by the name of the committee to which the action was referred. In the case of these three series, records are often further delineated by subject. The "17.2" portion of the file number, therefore, signifies the committee and subject. Entries for the 34th Congress in the preliminary inventory of the House records, for example, show that the Committee on Public Lands is the 17th committee listed alphabetically under the series heading for petitions and memorials. Petitions received by that committee are organized under seven topical headings, the second of which concerns "land laws in respect to bounty, graduation, and redemption."

**1.21** Use of the classification scheme for Senate records was discontinued in 1947 and for House records in 1962 although a modified version is used for some records of the House through the 90th Congress. In general records received after those dates are arranged first by Congress, and then by committee or subcommittee. Records below the committee or subcommittee level are arranged by series such as legislative files, nomination files, subject files, hearings, and Presidential messages received. More detailed information about the records can be found in the appropriate chapters of this guide.

### *Organization of the Records of the Joint Committees*

**1.22** The Records of Joint Committees of Congress (Record Group 128) are organized into two groups, depending upon whether they were transferred to the National Archives by the House or by the Senate. Both "House" and "Senate" joint committee records are further arranged by Congress and thereunder alphabetically by the name of the committee. Prior to World War II, allocation of the records followed no clear pattern. Consequently, records for the same committees may be among joint committee records received from both the House and Senate presumably because House members of a joint committee retired their records through the Clerk of the House, while Senate members retired their records through the Secretary of the Senate. After 1946, administrative responsibility for each joint committee, its staff and its records, was specifically assigned to either the House or the Senate. This action affects users in one important way: the rules of access of the Chamber that transferred the records to the National Archives prevail.

## *Non-textual Records*

**1.23** Cartographic Records: Most of the cartographic records of the Congress were prepared by executive agencies such as the General Land Office and the Army's Office of the Chief of Engineers for use as exhibits or as appendixes accompanying reports to Congress. Some were published by private concerns under contract with the government. Some of the original manuscript maps form the basis for later published versions. While most congressional cartographic materials were transferred to the Cartographic and Architectural Records Branch of the National Archives, many maps are still found among textual holdings of the Center for Legislative Archives.

**1.24** The major series of cartographic records of the Senate include: Manuscript maps, 1807-1907 (278 items); published maps, 1790-1958 (777 items); maps relating to internal improvements, 1826-35 (244 items); and Senate committee maps, 1791-1866 (6 items). The major series of cartographic records among the records of the House include: Published maps, 1828-1930 (377 items); manuscript maps, 1807-1907 (278 items); and House committee maps, 1889-1985 (317 items). For detailed descriptions of maps published through 1843, see Martin P. Claussen and Herman R. Friis, *Descriptive Catalog of Maps Published by Congress, 1817-1843* (Washington: Privately published, 1941). These records are in the custody of the Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives located in Washington, DC; specific inquiries about them should be directed to that branch.

**1.25** Photographic Records: The Senate has not transferred any still picture series to the National Archives. The House transferred about 300 items dating from 1880 to 1896. A few photographs are scattered among textual holdings of the Senate and House. The activities of individual Members of Congress, groups of Members, and scenes of the Capitol Building have been recorded by photographers working for other Government agencies and may be among the photographs accessioned by the National Archives from other Government agencies. The photographs mentioned in this section are in the custody of the Still Pictures Branch of the National Archives, Washington, DC, 20408; specific inquiries should be directed to that branch.

**1.26** Electronic Records: Among Senate records in the National Archives, there are electronic records from the following committees: Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities (Ervin Committee), 1973-74; Committee on Governmental Affairs, Majority Office, 99th Cong. (1986); Committee on Governmental Affairs, Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, Majority Office, 99th Cong. (1986); and impeachment trial committee (trial of Judge Harry E. Claiborne), executive session, 99th Cong. (1986). Among House records in the National Archives, there are electronic records from the following committees: Select Committee on Assassinations, 1979, and the Judiciary Committee's inquiry into the impeachment of President Richard Nixon, 1974. These records are in the custody of the Center for Electronic Records, National Archives, Washington, DC, 20408; specific inquiries should be directed to the center.

**1.27** Motion Picture and Audio Records: Among Senate records in the National Archives, there are motion picture and/or sound recordings from the following administrative units: Committee on Education and Labor, 1936-38; Commission on the Operation of the Senate, 1975-76; Special Committee of the Senate to Investigate the National Defense Program at Philadelphia Signal Depot, 1946; and the Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, 1972-1974. Among House records in the National Archives, there are motion picture and sound recordings from the following units: Select Committee to Investigate Communist Aggression Against Poland and Hungary, 1954; Office of the Clerk, 1979-1986; and the Select Committee on Assassinations, 1963-1978. Among the records of joint committees in the National Archives, there are motion pictures from Joint Congressional Committees on Inaugural Ceremonies, 1965-81.

**1.28** Videotapes of Floor Proceedings: In 1979, the House initiated televised coverage of its floor proceedings; the Senate began its coverage in 1986. The National Archives maintains videotape copies of House proceedings from 1983 to the present and it has Senate tapes from 1986 to the present. Videotapes of House proceedings from 1979-82 are not extant.

**1.29** The records mentioned in this section are in the custody of the Motion Picture and Sound Recordings Branch of the National Archives, Washington, DC, 20408; specific inquiries should be directed to that branch.

### *Access to the Records*

**1.30** The Congress is specifically exempted from the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (5 USC 552 and 552a). Access to the records of Congress in the National Archives is instead governed by certain House and Senate rules. Senate Resolution 474, 96th Congress, covers most Senate records. Access to House records is governed by House Rule 36.[11]

**1.31** Under House Rule 36 most records of the House are open for research after they have been in existence for 30 years. Exceptions to the rule are investigative records containing personal data; administrative records relating to personnel; records from hearings which are closed under rule 11; and records for which access is specifically designated by order of a committee. The rule specifically states that any record that was made public before it was transferred to the Archives is to be considered open. The rule provides for restrictions on access to House records in order to protect the personal privacy of individuals, the public interest, or the privileges and rights of the House. Records that may contain national security classified information will be subject to the same declassification procedures that apply to all records at the National Archives.

**1.32** Senate: S. Res. 474, 96th Cong., defines access to all Senate records at the National Archives except the records of the Senate Select Committee on Presidential Campaign Activities, 94th Congress (the Senate Watergate Committee). Access to the latter is covered by S. Res. 393, 96th Cong., and Senate Report 96-647.

**1.33** S. Res. 474, 96th Cong., provides that records that have previously been opened remain open to researchers. Most other records are open to researchers after 20 years. Investigative records relating to individuals that contain personal data, personnel files, and records of nominations will open 50 years after their creation. Certain other records are closed by statute or Executive order of the President, such as income tax returns and national security classified information. Senate committees can change the rules of access to their own records. An example of this is access to the records of the Senate Watergate Committee which is governed by the guidelines set forth in Senate Report 96-647.

**1.34** Although the Senate is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, it noted in its committee report on the S. Res. 474 that the spirit of the Act should govern decisions on access. Therefore, the Center for Legislative Archives screens modern Senate records primarily to ensure protection of individuals' privacy. The staff determines whether the records contain information that is personal, whether this is public knowledge, and whether release of the information would be an invasion of privacy. For records containing national security classified information, the Center for Legislative Archives can initiate declassification action.

**1.35** Joint Committees of Congress: Although joint committees have members from both houses of Congress, in practice one House assumes responsibility for the administration of the committee's records. The rules of access that correspond to the controlling House are observed. Access to the records of the Joint Committee on Taxation is controlled by the House. Access to the records of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy and the Joint Committee on the

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[11] As this book goes to press (December 1988) access to House records is governed by House Resolution 288, 83d Congress. Under H. Res. 288 most House records were closed until they had been in existence for 50 years. For many years scholars and others have lobbied to change to 50-year rule so that the more recent records of the House would be available for research. Just before the adjournment of the 100th Congress, the Rules Committee reported favorably on H. Res. 419 which provided for access to House records after 30 years rather than 50 years. Although the measure was not considered on the House floor, its provisions were adopted by the Democratic caucus for inclusion in the House rules that will be adopted when the 101st Congress convenes in 1989.

Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack is controlled by the Senate. For more information on the records of joint committees, see Chapter 23 of this guide.

## Research Strategies for Using the Records of Congress

### *Unpublished Documents*

**1.36** Researchers who are considering using congressional records should first ask themselves if Congress was concerned with the subject of their research. If so, how did it deal with the issue and when? To locate materials among the records of Congress it is important to know the committee or other body that dealt with the problem; the Chamber, House or Senate; and the time period. Researchers who have tightly focused subjects with a specific time frame should consult the indexes and text to the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents (see paras.1.85-1.88) to identify the committees or other offices that had jurisdiction over the subject of their study as well as any bills or resolutions that may have been introduced. Researchers who do not know if Congress was concerned with their subject, or who have less well defined topics or topics that span a great number of years should examine the Congressional Information Service (CIS) index to the *Congressional Serial Set* (see paras. 1.96, 1.107). The serial set is a massive publication of congressional committee reports, documents referred to Congress from the executive branch, and other materials that can help researchers quickly identify the time periods and committees of Congress that considered problems relevant to their research. Leads gained from the serial set and this guide could be pursued in the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents for additional information.

#### *Common Searches Among Congressional Records*

**1.37** The most common uses of congressional records have been legislative histories, popular opinion, claims filed before Congress, information from investigative files, treaties, and nominations. This section discusses the kinds of information researchers can expect to find among the records described in this guide as well as the information researchers need before requesting records.

**1.38** *Legislative Histories*: Many historians and legal professionals have used congressional records to determine the legislative intent behind specific Acts of Congress. Traditional legislative histories have concentrated on the published sources of congressional activity, such as the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents, congressional hearings, and committee reports. However, the unpublished records of committee activity among the records of Congress can shed important additional light on the legislative process.

**1.39** Description of the Records: While legislative files may include such published items as copies of the bill or resolution, amendments, the committee report, and hearings, they can also include the chairman's correspondence, transcripts of unpublished hearings, committee prints, correspondence indicating the administration's position on the proposal, and internal staff correspondence. In general, files created after the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, which authorized professional committee staffs, contain more of these kinds of documents.

**1.40** Information Needed to Conduct a Search: Researchers need to know the chamber involved in the legislation, the Congress in which it was introduced, the committee to which it was referred, and the bill or resolution number. This information may be found in the index to the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents or the *Journals* of the House and the Senate. Any bill or resolution that was considered by both chambers probably generated a file in both.

**1.41** During every Congress, each piece of legislation is assigned a unique number roughly in the order in which it is introduced. Bills introduced in the Senate are captioned S. —, while House bills are captioned H.R. —. Senate and House resolutions, joint resolutions, and concurrent resolutions are captioned S.Res. — and H.Res. —, S.J. Res. — and H.J. Res. —, and S. Con. Res. — and H. Con. Res. —, respectively. House and Senate resolutions are merely expressions of the sentiment of the parent body and as such do not carry the force of law. Senate and House concurrent and joint resolutions require the approval of the other chamber. In addition, joint resolutions, except for those that propose an amendment to the Constitution, require the consent of the President and have the force of law. Even when the bill or resolution is referred to the other chamber, it retains the initiating chamber's bill or resolution number throughout its legislative life. Each bill or resolution must secure passage before the end of the Congress in which it is introduced or it must begin the legislative process anew in the next Congress.

**1.42** On popular issues, many legislators may introduce their own bill or resolution to address the problem. All such measures are then referred to a committee, which settles on one as the basis for legislative activity and incorporates or ignores provisions from the others. In general, the file of the bill that became the legislative vehicle is the one with the richest documentation.

**1.43** Related Records: The first place to look for material on a bill or resolution is in the legislative files of the committee, but it is also worth looking in the committee's correspondence and subject files for additional information. In pre-World War II Congresses, these records are combined under a series of records called "committee papers." After 1946, committees often maintained separate series of unpublished hearings that may relate to legislation as well as transcripts of business meetings, and markup sessions (where the committee considers each section of a measure). Because executive branch agencies closely track legislation that is of interest to their programs, researchers should also consult the records of relevant agencies for legislative files.

**1.44** To review the various versions of bills and resolutions as they passed through the legislative process, researchers should consult the printed bills and resolutions of the Congress, 1830's-1962, in the custody of the Center for Legislative Archives (for more information, see para. 1.108). Among congressional records are the drafts of bills and resolutions that were returned to Congress from the printer; they are in several series labelled "original bills and resolutions" (for more information, see Chapter 24 of this guide). The final version of enacted bills and joint resolutions are published in the *United States Statutes at Large* (for more information, see paras. 1.109-1.112). To obtain the most complete legislative history of any measure, researchers should consult the publications described in paras. 1.82 through 1.112, as well as the holdings of the Center for Legislative Archives.

**1.45** *Popular Opinion*: Studying petitions submitted to Congress is often a profitable way to understand popular opinion. The records of Congress contain thousands of original petitions from individuals and groups, ample proof that Americans exercise their constitutional right to petition the government. They cover the entire span of congressional history and relate to an extremely wide range of issues, such as pensions for veterans of the Revolutionary War, antebellum antislavery reform, woman suffrage, establishment of post offices and post roads, annexation of Hawaii and the Philippines, the League of Nations, prohibition, and Sabbath observance. These petitions are of two broad types: those in which the petitioner sought individual indemnification from the government, and those for which the petitioner drew attention to a larger social problem. The former category is described below under claims filed before Congress.

**1.46** Description of the Records: Congress receives petitions on the floor and usually refers them to the committee whose jurisdiction most closely matches the subject of the petition. A major exception to this procedure was in the case of antislavery petitions presented during the antebellum period. According to a "gag rule" in effect in the House from the 1830's through the 1850's, these petitions were neither received nor referred to a committee; however, many are extant among congressional records.

**1.47** As historical documents, petitions have been used in different ways. Some researchers are interested in viewing petitions submitted by prominent Americans, such as Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, John C. Fremont, or Frederick Douglass. Others, attempting to trace the activities of certain groups or individuals from a particular locale, have examined all petitions received from that group over time. Another approach has been to examine all petitions on a given subject received from all groups over time. In addition to the names of the signers, petitions often show the name of their town or county of residence, along with an expression of opinion on the problem. Depending on the subject and the time period, the statements may be preprinted or individualized.

**1.48** Information Required to Make a Search: For most topics, petitions were referred to the same committee for any given Congress, but for particularly contentious or otherwise complex topics, petitions on seemingly similar topics may have been referred to more than one committee. For example, researchers who want to review all antislavery petitions for a given Congress may find some among the records of the Committee on the Judiciary (if the petitioners ad-

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vocated a constitutional amendment); the Committee on the Territories (if the petition related to slavery in the Territories); the Committee on the District of Columbia (if it related to the slave trade in the District); a select committee (if one was formed relating to the subject); or among those petitions "received," meaning "gagged"; in the Senate such petitions were considered "tabled." Information needed to locate the petitions can be obtained from either the indexes to the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents (see paras. 1.85-1.88) or the Journals of the House and the Senate (see para. 1.89).

**1.49** Researchers looking for all petitions from a particular locale on one topic or on many topics, face several problems. The indexers of the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents were not consistent in identifying the States from which the petitions were received. One means of surmounting this problem might be to examine petitions introduced by legislators from the locale under study, since most legislators tended to introduce petitions from their own district or State. Some caution should be exercised in employing this strategy, however, since a few Members who were interested in particular issues introduced related petitions from many States. For example, John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts submitted antislavery petitions from many States. Further, petitions referred to each committee are usually arranged chronologically by the date introduced on the floor or, in the case of claims, alphabetically by the surname of the petitioner, but rarely are they arranged alphabetically by State or town.

**1.50** Those researchers who want more refined indexing, such as the gender, occupation, or the race of the petitioners, will probably be disappointed. For example, when petitioners described themselves as "fifty women from Vermont praying that Congress make liquor trafficking illegal," the compilers of the *Congressional Record* would probably describe them in those terms in its index and text. But in other cases where the petitioners' group affiliation was less clear, they were likely to be described more generically. Researchers may determine more about the petitioners by consulting other sources, such as census and probate records.

**1.51** Researchers looking for all petitions signed by an individual, perhaps for a biographical study, may need to employ several of the strategies listed above. As the sole signer of a petition, the individual would most likely be listed by name in the index to the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents. In this case the researcher needs only to know the Congress in which the petition was submitted to make a search, since the Record and its antecedents are indexed by Congress (see paras. 1.85-1.88 for details). If the individual were one of many signers of a petition, an educated guess must be made as to the type of petition the individual would have signed. One researcher, for example, located a Lincoln signature by correctly guessing that as postmaster of New Salem, Illinois, in 1834, Lincoln might have signed a petition praying for Congress to establish a post road in his area.

**1.52** Related Records: For the period 1789 through the 1850's, some petitions were published in *American State Papers*. See paras. 1.98-1.99, for more information on *American State Papers*.

**1.53** *Private Claims Filed Before Congress*: Individuals have asked for congressional intervention in their behalf on a wide range of issues, such as compensation for serving in the armed forces, eligibility for pensions, rights to land, damages to persons or property committed by representatives of the United States, of foreign governments, or Indians, and the removal of political disabilities for certain former Confederate officials after the Civil War.

**1.54** Description of the Records: Such files can include the original petition, the congressional committee's report, a bill introduced to alleviate the problem, a report from an appropriate executive branch official, and depositions from friends and neighbors in support of the petitioner's plea. These records can be quite informative, because they provide a description of the complaint, usually in the words of the individuals involved, and the judgment of the Congress.

**1.55** Information Needed to Conduct a Search: In order to retrieve original documentation on these claims, researchers need to know the name of the claimant, the chamber in which the claim was filed, the Congress or Congresses in which it was introduced, and the committee to which the claim was referred. Fortunately the Congress produced a number of indexes that provide the information necessary to access the records. Indexes to private claims brought before the Senate and House were periodically published as part of the *Congressional Serial Set* (see paras. 1.94-1.97). Each index is arranged alphabetically by the surname of the claimant and shows the object of the claim, the Congress and session before which it was brought, the committee to which it was referred, the nature and number of any committee reports or bills, the dates when the bill was passed by both Chambers, and the date that the bill was approved by the President. These lists were compiled from the Journals of the House and Senate. A listing of these indexes is available in the Chapter 6 of this guide.

**1.56** Several words of caution are appropriate for researchers interested in using these indexes. Not all of the documents listed in them are extant. In the case of those claims that were repeatedly submitted, the index indicates that a claimant submitted numerous petitions on the same subject, giving the impression that multiple documents exist. In fact, the same document was usually resubmitted numerous times. Finally, the indexes are best suited to researchers looking for information on specific individuals.

**1.57** Those researchers interested in examining all claims on a particular topic or all claims submitted by specific groups, will find the indexes less satisfying. If all claims on a certain subject are sought, researchers may identify the committee of referral by examining this guide, as well as the indexes to the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents. The indexes are less useful in determining the group identification of claimants. (See paras. 1.49-1.51, for a further discussion of this point.)

**1.58** Related Records: Over the entire course of American history, many agencies of the United States Government processed different kinds of claims. These claims files are described in some detail in Chapter 16, National Archives Trust Fund Board, *Guide to Genealogical Records in the National Archives* (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1982).

**1.59** Southern Claims Commission: Genealogists and social historians have found that the records of the Commissioners on Claims, popularly known as the Southern Claims Commission, provide a wealth of detail about the lives of southerners in the 1860's and 1870's. The Commission met between 1871 and 1880 to examine the claims that those people who had lived in the former Confederate States had against the United States Army or Navy for property used, taken, or damaged during the Civil War. The Commissioners judged each claimant's loyalty to the United States during the war, certified the amount, value, and nature of the property taken or furnished, and reported their judgment on each claim presented to the House. The Commission received 22,298 claims for over $60 million dollars towards which about $4.6 million was paid.

**1.60** Description of the Records: Only the barred or disallowed case files—that is, ones in which the Government made no payment at all—are among the records of the House of Representatives. Those records have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publication M1407, *Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880.* For a more detailed discussion of these records, see Chapter 6 of this guide.

**1.61** *Investigative Files*: Congress has the authority to investigate perceived problems in any area of American society, but particularly within the Federal Government. For example, Congress has investigated the national military establishment from the Indians' defeat of Arthur St. Clair in 1792, to the manner in which the Civil War was prosecuted in the 1860's, to the dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur in the 1950's. In the 20th century, Congress has examined various facets of the economy through investigations of the banking community in 1912 and 1933, labor unions' organizational difficulties in the late 1930's, and the munitions makers of World War I. In the 1950's, Congress also reviewed the activities of organized crime and subversion.

**1.62** Description of the Records: Often a tremendous amount of data is compiled on the subject of an investigation. Among the records of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, for example, are files on individuals who were considered security risks. The files of a number of investigative committees of the 20th century contain copies of the financial records of many large corporations and other economic data of interest to students of the business community. Because some information contained in the records of 20th century investigative committees may be considered sensitive, the National Archives staff must screen these materials prior to their release. Researchers interested in using investigative records should therefore contact the Center for Legislative Archives well in advance of their proposed research visit.

**1.63** Information Needed to Conduct a Search: The records of each investigation are organized by the administrative unit that conducted the investigation, usually subcommittees of a standing committee or select or special committees. See Chapters 2-25 of this guide for more detailed information on the records of House committees.

**1.64** *Treaties*: The Constitution provides that the President must seek the advice and consent of the Senate on all treaties. The concurrence of two-thirds of the Senators present when a treaty is considered by Congress is necessary.

**1.65** Description of the Records: Treaty files may include a copy of the proposed treaty, a message from the President, a copy of the committee's report, transcripts of hearings, committee prints, correspondence of committee chairman, correspondence indicating the administration's position, internal staff communications, and for treaties relating to taxation, a statement from the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Department of the Treasury. Treaty files that postdate the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, which authorized the creation of professional staff for committees, are more likely to contain fuller documentation. The records are in two series: Indian treaties, 1789-1870, and foreign treaties, 1789-present.

**1.66** Information Needed to Conduct a Search: Researchers need to know the Congress in which the treaty was disposed of by the Senate and the parties to the treaty. This means that if the President submitted a treaty before one Congress and it was neither accepted nor rejected until the next Congress, records of the treaty are in the latter Congress. This disposition information can be located in either the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents or the *Senate Executive Journal* (see para. 1.89 for more information on the Journal).

**1.67** Related Records: Related records are also available in other record groups in the National Archives. Many of these records have been filmed. Ratified Indian treaties are located in Record Group 11, General Records of the U.S. Government and are filmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication M668, *Ratified Indian Treaties, 1722-1869*. The treaties were published in Vol. II of Charles J. Kappler's, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904). Supporting documents pertaining to the negotiation and ratification of Indian treaties are in Record Group 75, Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and they have been filmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication T494, *Documents Relating to the Negotiation of Ratified and Unratified Treaties with Various Indian Tribes, 1801-1869*. Researchers should also consult John H. Martin's compilation: *List of Documents Concerning the Negotiation of Ratified Indian Treaties, 1801-1869*, Special List 6 (Washington: National Archives, 1949), which identifies documents that are not included in Microfilm Publication T494. Researchers interested in international treaties and conventions should consult the inventories of General Records of the U.S. Government, Record Group 11, and General Records of the Department of State, Record Group 59.

**1.68** *Nominations*. As with treaties, the Senate must provide its advise and consent on the nomination of a number of presidential appointments, such as cabinet officers, Federal judges, postmasters, and officers in the Armed Forces.

**1.69** Description of the Records: A nomination file may include such documents as a transcript of the nomination hearing, résumé of the nominee, letters of recommendation from individuals and professional organizations, financial disclosure information, correspondence from the administration, committee vote tallies, petitions from interested citizens, and internal staff memoranda. The records are arranged in two series: Messages of the President (placing a candidate's name in nomination) and the nomination files.

**1.70** Information Needed to Conduct a Search: Nomination files are arranged by the Congress in which the appointment was made and then alphabetically by the surname of the candidate. Beginning with the 80th Congress (1947-49), the records are arranged by the Congress, thereunder by the committee to which the nomination was referred, and thereunder alphabetically by the surname of the nominee. The appropriate Congress and committee can be located in either the *Congressional Record* and its antecedents or the *Senate Executive Journal*. The National Archives has published a listing of all of the nomination files from 1789-1901: George P. Perros, James C. Brown, and Jacqueline A. Wood, compilers, *Papers of the United States Senate Relating to Presidential Nominations, 1789-1901* Special List 20, (Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1964).

**1.71** Related Records: There may be additional documentation among the records of the government agency to which the candidate was nominated and the records of the Office of the President.

### *Citing Unpublished Congressional Documents*

**1.72** In citing unpublished governmental records, researchers are encouraged to consult NARA's General Information Leaflet 17: "Citing Records in the National Archives of the United States." In line with this Leaflet, the following specific guidance is provided for researchers citing unpublished congressional materials.

**1.73** *The Elements of a Citation*: The purpose of any citation is to promote the easy retrieval of the materials cited. To facilitate retrieval, researchers are encouraged to identify the following elements in their citations to unpublished congressional records: record, file unit, series, Congress, record group, and repository. Obviously, in subsequent notes some of this information can be abbreviated. Each element of the note should be separated by a semicolon to avoid confusion. In general it is not necessary to cite the session of Congress since few unpublished congressional records are arranged by session. What follows is more precise guidance on each of the elements of a citation.

**1.74** Record: A record is a unit of information, regardless of physical form. The citation should identify the document, its date and, where appropriate, its author and recipient. For many 18th-and-19th-century documents the identifying data is found in the document's endorsement. The endorsement, written on the back of a document, shows when the item was received and what actions were taken on the subject of the document. If the date of the document differs from the endorsement date, which is usually the case, cite the document date and in parentheses indicate the date of the first endorsement. The endorsement date is important, because it is often the date that is used for filing these documents.

**1.75** File Unit: A file unit may be a single record, a bound volume, or an envelope or file folder that contains various types of records. In some series of congressional records, such as committee papers, petitions referred to committees, treaty files, and Indian treaty files, there are important subdivisions that need to be noted for ease of retrieval.

For committee papers, committee reports and papers, petitions referred to committee, papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions: Identify the committee to which the matter was referred (for papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions, include the bill or resolution number as well).

For foreign and Indian treaty files: Identify the specific treaty.

For nominations: Identify the name of the nominee.

**1.76** Series: A series may be a single file or several files brought together because of their common arrangement, source, use, or physical form. Many congressional records are organized in the following series:

Original journals
Original bills and resolutions
Committee papers
Committee reports and papers
President's messages
Reports and communications submitted to the [House or Senate]
Petitions and memorials referred to committee
Petitions and memorials that were tabled
Election records
Records of impeachments
Records of the Clerk of the House

**1.77** For House records, 1789-1962, and Senate records, 1789-1946, researchers should cite the file number in parentheses immediately after the series title. The file number bears a HR or SEN designation, depending on whether it was a House or Senate record, an initial number indicating the Congress, and other letters and numbers, such as HR 69A-H6.13, which indicate the series and subgroups to which the records belong. See paras. 1.14-1.20, for a more detailed explanation of the file numbers.

**1.78** Congress: A new Congress begins every two years, following the congressional elections. Each has been numbered sequentially beginning with the First Congress, which met from 1789 to 1791.

**1.79** Record Group: The record groups for congressional materials are listed below with accepted abbreviations in parentheses:

Record Group 46—Records of the U.S. Senate (RG 46)
Record Group 233—Records of the U.S. House of Representatives (RG 233)
Record Group 128—Records of Joint Committees of Congress (RG 128)
Record Group 287—Publications of the U.S. Government (RG 287)

**1.80** Repository: All records of the Congress in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration are in the National Archives, Washington, DC. This element may be abbreviated as NA.

**1.81** *Examples of Notes*: Below are examples of how to cite congressional materials. **All of the documents are fictitious.**

Fifty women from Vermont praying an end to slavery in the District of Columbia, Jan. 15, 1838 (endorsed Feb. 7, 1838); Committee on the District of Columbia; Petitions and Memorials Referred to Committees (HR 25A-G4.1); 25th Congress; Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233; National Archives, Washington, DC.

President's message, March 10, 1808 (endorsed March 12, 1808); Treaty with the Cherokees; Indian Treaty Files (SEN 12B-C1); 12th Congress; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46; National Archives, Washington, DC.

Original Legislative Journal, Dec. 6, 1847, page 3; First Session (SEN 30A-A2); 30th Congress; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46; National Archives, Washington, DC.

Petition of Robert W. Smith, Apr. 17, 1874; Report 4, Office 123; Disallowed Claims Files; Records of the Commissioners on Claims; Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Record Group 233; National Archives, Washington, DC.

William Smith to Walter Jones, Jan. 5, 1956; Hanford Power Plant; unclassified subject files; Records of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, Record Group 128; National Archives, Washington, DC.

Hearings on the Situation in Cuba, Jan. 9, 1963, page 56; formerly classified hearings; Committee on Foreign Relations; 88th Congress; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46; National Archives, Washington, DC.

James Jones to Jay Sourwine, July 7, 1952; Owen Lattimore file; Individuals files; Subcommittee on Internal Security; 82d Congress; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46; National Archives, Washington, DC.

John Doe to Alexander Smith, Dec. 3, 1946; Individuals: Philip Murray; Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program, 1941-48; Records of the U.S. Senate, Record Group 46; National Archives, Washington, DC.

## *Published Congressional Documents*

**1.82** More than any other agency of the Federal Government, the Congress publishes an extensive record of its activities. The most important examples of this effort are listed and described below. These publications are available in the Library and Printed Archives Division of the National Archives and may also be available in Government Depository Libraries located around the United States. Additional information about the depository library system is provided in Appendix E of this guide.

**1.83** Congressional publications fall into two categories: those that record activities conducted on the floor of Congress and those that record activities in its committee.

### *Records of Floor Proceedings*

**1.84** The quality of the record of debates and actions that take place on the floor of Congress have varied widely throughout the history of Congress. The Constitution stipulates in Article I, section 5, that Congress simply maintain a journal of its proceedings. Production of an accurate record of the actual speeches and debates developed slowly. In part this was due to congressional traditions. All Senate proceedings held during the period 1789 to December 1795, for example, were closed to the public. Senate proceedings on its executive business (treaties and nominations) were also closed to the public until the 1920's. House deliberations on the other hand have, except on rare occasions, always been open to the public. Because of the poor quality of early efforts at transcription, legislators insisted on the right to edit their remarks. This is permitted for the style but not the substance of remarks. In order to expedite business, Members of Congress have also been permitted to submit materials for incorporation into the record that they did not actually read on the floor.

**1.85** *Annals of Congress* (1789-1824): During its first 3 decades, Congress did not produce its own transcription of its proceedings. In the 1830's, two pioneers in reporting congressional activity, Joseph Gales and William Seaton, used contemporary newspaper and other sources to reconstruct congressional debates from the earlier period. The *Annals of Congress* reproduced the speeches and debates as abstracts written in the third person. Each volume is indexed. Gales and Seaton were also publishers of the newspaper the *National Intelligencer*, which specialized in congressional coverage.

**1.86** *Register of Debates* (1824-1837): Gales and Seaton published this contemporaneous abstraction of congressional floor debates. Each volume is indexed.

**1.87** *Congressional Globe* (1833-1873): Francis P. Blair and John C. Rives, publishers of the Congressional Globe, became the authorized printer of congressional debates in 1833. In its later years the *Globe* reconstructed what appeared to be a verbatim transcription (done in the first person) rather than printing primarily third person abstracts.

**1.88** *Congressional Record* (1873-present): While the *Congressional Record* has always looked like a verbatim transcription, members can edit their remarks and submit remarks that were not delivered on the floor. These remarks appear in the text as if they were delivered on the floor. Beginning in March 1978, remarks that were not actually delivered were indicated by a printer's "bullet" in the margin. However, Members can circumvent this device. For instance, if the first sentence of a speech is actually delivered on the floor and the rest is turned in for printing, the "bullet" does not appear in the margin. Most recently those remarks not delivered on the floor are printed in a different type face. In 1947, the *Congressional Record* produced a new publication: the *Daily Digest*. The *Daily Digest* records floor and committee proceedings each day. The *Congressional Record* is indexed by subject and by bill and resolution number.

**1.89** House and Senate *Journals* (1789-present): The *Journals* are the only constitutionally mandated record of floor proceedings. The *Journals* record actions taken on the floor, such as the receipt of messages, the introduction of bills, the referral of petitions or bills to committees, and all roll call votes. All of these activities are also recorded in the publications noted above. The *Journals* reproduce none of the debates and speeches. While the House produces one *Journal*, the Senate publishes the *Senate Legislative Journal* to record its legislative proceedings and the *Senate Executive Journal* to record proceedings on treaties and nominations. Each volume is indexed by subject and by bill or resolution number. The *Senate Executive Journal* is indexed by the surnames of individuals whose names were placed in nomination. Beginning in 1829 geographical place names are also indexed. Later volumes also divide the personal names section into segments for the agencies or Departments to which the individuals had been nominated.

**1.90** House and Senate *Manuals*: Those interested in understanding the fine points of transacting business on the floor of Congress should consult the *House Manual* and *Senate Manual* appropriate to the time period under study. The *Manuals* are published in the *Congressional Serial Set*. In addition researchers should consult the compilations of precedents listed below for information on how each Chamber was organized and how its business was conducted. These precedents were developed over time by each House of Congress through rulings from the chair and actions of the entire body.

**1.91** House and Senate Precedents: In 1907, Asher C. Hinds produced the first systematic codification of House precedents. Published by the Government Printing Office as *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States*, they are organized into categories such as the meeting of Congress, the presiding officer at organization, procedure and powers of the Members-elect in organization, polygamy, disqualifications, irregular credentials, and impeachment. There is also a subject index. Revisions to Hinds appeared in the 1930's and 1970's: Clarence Cannon, *Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1935) and Lewis Deschler, *Deschler's Precedents of the United States House of Representatives*, H. Doc. 94-661 (Serial 13151-1).

**1.92** A similar, but much less extensive, work for the Senate was compiled by Charles Watkins and Floyd Riddick and was based on earlier editions by editors such as Henry Gilfrey (1909). The most recent version is: *Senate Procedure, Precedents, and Practices*, S. Doc. 97-2 (Serial 13386).

### *Records of Committee Actions*

**1.93** As Congress evolved during the 19th and 20th centuries, increasingly more of the workload was transferred from the floor of Congress to its committees and subcommittees. Published records of committee activity include hearings, both published and unpublished, reports, other documents that committees thought deserved wider circulation, and staff studies.

**1.94** *Congressional Serial Set*: The *Congressional Serial Set* is a publication of United States Government documents authorized by Congress in December 1813. The set began with the 15th Congress (1815-17). It includes the Journals, committee reports, a wide variety of reports and messages from the executive branch, the *Congressional Directory*, and other documents Congress deemed worthy of wider distribution.

**1.95** The volumes of the serial set are numbered sequentially from 1815 to the present. The volumes are organized by Congress, by Senate and House publications, and for most of its history by "reports" and "documents." At times during the 19th century, the documents were divided into "executive documents" and "miscellaneous documents" the former being documents of the executive branch and the latter being other documents. During the early 20th century the serial set was divided into Journals, reports, and documents.

**1.96** Although the serial set is an excellent source of information on the Congress and the entire government, its use was hindered by the poor quality of its indexes until the Congressional Information Service, Inc. (CIS), a private publisher headquartered in Bethesda, MD, published its *CIS U.S. Serial Set Index, 1789-1969.* The *CIS Index* is divided into the following sections: subjects, names and organizations for whom private relief was considered, a numerical listing of reports and documents, and a shelf list of publications contained in each serial volume. For serial set documents from 1969 to the present, consult the CIS indexes and abstracts. CIS has also produced a microfiche edition of the serial set.

**1.97** The *Congressional Serial Set* is a key source of documentation on the activities of the Congress. Committee reports, for example, are prepared by a committee in conjunction with the presentation of the committee's version of a bill or resolution to its parent body. The committee report is the committee's argument in favor of passing the measure; it is sometimes accompanied by a minority view. In other cases the committee report is simply its version of the bill as it emerged from committee deliberations. Committee reports have, therefore, become key documents in determining the intent of Congress in its passage of legislation. In the case of investigating committees, the committee report is usually a presentation of its findings and recommendations for correcting the problems the committee was established to study.

**1.98** *American State Papers*: The only publication comparable to the serial set for documents created before 1815 is *American State Papers.* From 1832 to 1861, publishers Gales and Seaton reproduced in this series a wide variety of early government documents, such as congressional committee reports, and messages and reports from the executive branch, that date roughly from 1789 to the 1830's. While *American State Papers* was an impressive undertaking for its day, its editors only published what they considered to be the most important reports and messages.

**1.99** Gales and Seaton, the publishers, divided these documents into ten subject classes: Foreign relations, 1789-1828; Indian affairs, 1789-1827; finance, 1789-1828; commerce and navigation, 1789-1823; military affairs, 1789-1838; naval affairs, 1789-1836; Post Office Department, 1789-1833; public lands, 1789-37; claims, 1789-1823; miscellaneous, 1789-1823. Within each class, each document was assigned a sequential number which was roughly in chronological order. Each volume is indexed.

**1.100** Published Congressional Hearings: During the 19th century, particularly after the Civil War, congressional committees began to hold hearings on the wide variety of issues that confronted them. For 20th century committees, hearings have become a standard mechanism for gathering information relevant to their main functions: considering legislation, investigating wrongdoing, and overseeing the activities of executive branch agencies. Congressional hearings were not published as a separate series until the 1890's. Hearings published before the 1890's were included in the *Congressional Serial Set*, often as a part of the committee's report. Congress did not require that its committees systematically transcribe their hearings until the passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

**1.101** Committee hearings record the comments of witnesses and legislators on different issues and, more importantly, they record interesting exchanges between them. Witnesses and legislators may edit their remarks, but any corrections are supposed to be stylistic rather than substantive. Because each committee member may question a witness, the same issues may be covered several times in response to questions posed by different legislators. Individual hearings are rarely indexed, although a table of contents is normally provided indicating the names of witnesses.

**1.102** The Congressional Information Service, Inc., has produced the most complete index to the published hearings of Congress in its *CIS U.S. Congressional Committee Hearings Index, 1833-1969.* The *Hearings Index* is arranged in the following sections: by subject, by names of witnesses, by committee or subcommittee holding the hearing, by the popular names of bills and laws, by titles of the hearings, by the Superintendent of Documents classification numbers, and by the report or document number (for those hearings that were published in a report or a document in the serial set). For hearings held from 1969 to the present, consult the CIS indexes and abstracts. CIS has also produced a microfiche edition of the published hearings of Congress.

**1.103** Unpublished Congressional Hearings: Committees decide whether their hearing transcripts should be published. The decision not to publish usually is made because of the costs involved, the subject matter of the hearing (too controversial, too sensitive, too routine, or classified for reasons of national security), or committee idiosyncracies. Consequently, a large body of unpublished transcripts of hearings exists principally in the National Archives and to a lesser extent in congressional committee offices. The content and format of these hearings is the same as those of hearings that were published.

**1.104** Until recently no bibliographic control over these hearings transcripts existed. The Congressional Information Service, Inc., made an extensive search of the holdings of the National Archives, congressional committee offices, and a number of other repositories to locate all unpublished Senate hearings through 1964. The results are published as *CIS Index to Unpublished U.S. Senate Committee Hearings, 1823-1964.* This Index is organized in the same way as the CIS index to published congressional hearings. CIS has also produced a microfiche edition of the unpublished hearings of the Senate. CIS is currently searching for all unpublished hearings of the House through 1937 and it plans to publish an index and microfiche edition of these hearings as well. The cutoff dates of the CIS publications are dictated by access rules: unpublished records of the Senate are closed for 20 years and unpublished records of the House are closed for 50 years.

**1.105** Committee Prints: Unlike the hearings, reports, and documents, committee prints are a heterogeneous category of publications intended primarily for the use of congressional committees. They often are printed in small quantities (less than 100 copies) and, unlike published hearings and serial set documents, they are not always preserved or distributed in any systematic way. Committee prints usually fall into one of the following categories: Monographs, investigative field reports, analyses of bills, confidential staff memoranda and reports, executive branch comments on legislation, reference materials, statistical compilations, hearings publications, and drafts of bills and reports.

**1.106** The Congressional Information Service, Inc., conducted a major survey of congressional records at the National Archives, Library of Congress, Senate and House libraries, and large Government depository libraries throughout the country to prepare a collection of congressional committee prints. The CIS published its work as *CIS U.S. Congressional Committee Prints Index, from the Earliest Publications through 1969.* CIS has also produced a microfiche edition of the these committee prints. For more recent prints, see the CIS indexes described below.

**1.107** CIS Indexes, 1970-present: Since 1969, CIS has published a single index to most of the different forms of congressional publications (reports, documents, hearings, prints, executive reports and documents, and public laws) but not to the *Congressional Record.* CIS produces a monthly index that permits users to access documents by subject; by names of witnesses; by titles of publications; by bill, report, hearing, print and Superintendent of Documents numbers; and by committee or subcommittee name. Citations in the index direct researchers to the *CIS Annual Abstracts,* which summarize each congressional committee publication. In addition to providing full bibliographic information, the abstractions of hearings lists all witnesses who testified, summarizes their testimony, and notes any supporting material they submitted for inclusion in the record. The index is published monthly and issued in a single volume every four years, while the *Abstracts* for a year are published annually in a single volume. The indexing database is also available on-line through DIALOG Information Services, Inc. The documents themselves are available in microfiche from CIS.

**1.108** Bills and Resolutions: The Center for Legislative Archives has approximately 1,000 linear feet of the printed versions of House and Senate bills and resolutions from 1807 to 1954. A more complete collection is in the Law Library of the Library of Congress. Portions of the bills and resolutions have been microfiched by the Congressional Information Service, Inc.: *CIS Congressional Bills, Resolutions, and Laws, 1943-84.*

**1.109** Acts of Congress: Acts of Congress, both private and public, treaties and conventions before 1950, proclamations, reorganization plans, and concurrent resolutions are published in the *United States*

*Statutes at Large*. Each volume of the *Statutes*, except the first, is indexed alphabetically by subject.

**1.110** The *Statutes* have been indexed in the following publications: *A Synoptical Index to the Laws and Treaties of the United States of America from March 4, 1789 to March 3, 1851* (Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1852); George Winfield Scott and Middleton G. Beaman, *Index Analysis of the Federal Statutes, 1873-1907* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908); Walter H. McClenon and Wilfred C. Gilbert, *Index to the Federal Statutes, 1874-1931* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1933).

**1.111** Periodically the laws of the United States are codified. The first such codification took place in 1873 and was published in the *Statutes at Large*, but other codifications have been published in the *United States Code*. The *Code* is arranged by major subject areas of the law, called titles, such as agriculture (title 7), patents (title 35), and veterans benefits (title 38). The most recent version of the *Code* shows laws in force through the date of the publication of the *Code*. To find out if the *Code* is current for the particular subject of interest, researchers should consult volumes of the *Statutes* that postdate the *Code*.

**1.112** A helpful version of the *Code* is the *United States Code Annotated* (St. Paul, MN: West Publishing Company, 1973). This publication contains extensive notes for each section of the *Code*, indicating any previous laws that were changed. This is particularly useful in tracing the evolution of Federal law in a given subject area.

### *Other Publications of Congressional Materials*

**1.113** *The Territorial Papers of the United States*: Pursuant to several acts of Congress passed in the 1920's, the Department of State was directed to collect, edit, and publish the official papers of Territories of the United States. In the 1930's, the National Archives assumed this responsibility. As of this writing, the papers of all of those territories east of the Mississippi River, plus Arkansas and Missouri, have been published in a letterpress version, supplemented in many cases by microfilm editions; only a microfilm edition exists for Iowa.

**1.114** Because Congress played such a vital role in establishing Territories by legislating on a wide range of pertinent issues, and passing the acts admitting Territories to statehood, the records of Congress are an important source of territorial history. Numerous records of Congress relating to the Territories were therefore published in this series. Included, for example, are petitions from territorial residents, as well as various versions of the bills that eventually became acts granting statehood, and versions of proposed State constitutions. In addition many records of the Senate that related to the Territories were microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm Publication M200, *Territorial Papers of the United States Senate, 1789-1873.*

**1.115** *The Documentary History of the First Federal Congress of the United States of America, March 4, 1789-March 3, 1791*: Since the mid-1960's, this project has sought to locate and publish all documents that relate to the First Congress. The First Federal Congress project has performed a comprehensive search of all extant materials, at the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and private or public repositories with collections in the 1789-1791 time span.

**1.116** To date, the project has published the most authoritative versions of the *Senate Legislative and Executive Journals*, and the House Journal for the First Congress, as well as three volumes of legislative histories of all bills and resolutions introduced during the First Congress. In forthcoming volumes the project will reproduce petitions, the debates of Congress, the diary of Senator William Maclay (1789-1791), and other letters and papers of members of the First Congress.

**1.117** This project is one of more than 250 historical documentary editions sponsored by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

**1.118** *The Documentary History of the First Federal Elections, 1788-1790*: The NHPRC also sponsors this project which anticipates the publication of a four-volume edition of documents and correspondence concerning the first congressional elections. The editors have selected for publication official records of the States as well as private correspondence and newspaper sources. The first two volumes have been published.

**1.119** Other NHPRC Projects: In addition to the above NHPRC sponsored publications projects, congressional documents have been published in such projects as the Papers of John Adams, John Quincy Adams, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, Albert Gallatin, Joseph Henry, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, James K. Polk, Jefferson Davis, Ulysses S. Grant, and Andrew Johnson. Some congressional documents also are reproduced in the National Archives Federal Documentary Microfilm Edition No. 1, *Papers Relating to the Administration of the U.S. Patent Office During the Superintendency of William Thornton, 1802-1828.*

**1.120** National Archives Microfilm Publications: The Legislative Archives Division is filming the records of the first 14 Congresses, 1789-1817. The documentary record for this period is slight, but the extant records are of unusually high intrinsic value. The records after 1817 have been more systematically published in the *Congressional Serial Set*. The records will be filmed in two series: records that are bound and records that are unbound. In addition the barred and disallowed claims files of the Southern Claims Commission have been microfiched. See Appendix H for a complete listing of these microfilm publications.

### *Citing Published Congressional Materials*

**1.121** Because the unpublished records of Congress bear such a close relationship to published congressional materials, a section on how to cite them is also included. This is based on *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 13th edition. Note: **These are all fictitious documents.**

**1.122** Floor Proceedings:

*Senate Journal*, 14th Cong., 1st sess., 7 Dec. 1819, 9-19.

*Annals of Congress*, 2d Cong., 1st sess., 215.

*Congressional Globe*, 39th Cong., 2d sess., 1867, 39, pt.9:9505.

*Congressional Record*, 71st Cong., 1st sess., 1930, 72, pt.10:10828-30.

**1.123** Published Committee Documents:

*American State Papers, Class V-Military Affairs*, 2:558.

Malcolm to Calhoun, 2 Nov. 1818, *Report of the Secretary of War Relative to Roads and Canals* (7 Jan. 1819), 15th Cong., 2d sess., H. Doc. 87.

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, *The Mutual Security Act of 1956*, 84th Cong., 2d sess., 1956, S. Rept. 2273, 5.

House Committee on Foreign Affairs, *Background Materials on Mutual Defense and Development Programs: Fiscal Year 1965*, 88th Cong., 2d sess., 1964, Committee Print, 24.

**1.124** Published Congressional Hearings:

Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, *Hearings on the Situation in China*, 80th Cong., 1st sess., July 19, 1947, 57-68.

## Other Sources

### *Textual Records in the National Archives Relating to the Records of Congress*

**1.125** *Continental and Confederation Congresses, 1774-1789*: The immediate predecessors to the modern Congress were the Continental and Confederation Congresses. The First and Second Continental Congresses met from 1774 through 1781; these bodies organized resistance to the British, drafted the Declaration of Independence, and managed the war effort during the Revolution. The Articles of Confederation, approved in 1781, established a new central government, the primary feature of which was a Congress. The Confederation Congress lasted from 1781 to 1789, when the new government established by the Constitution took effect. The records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses have been reproduced as National Archives Microfilm Publications M247, *Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789* and M332, *Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*. The original records are part of Record Group 360.

**1.126** *Original Enrolled Bills*: The final version of a bill or joint resolution that is signed by the President, making it an Act of Congress, is called the enrolled version. These are published in the *United States Statutes at Large*. The originals, 1789-present, are among the General Records of the U.S. Government, Record Group 11. Portions of these records have been microfilmed as National Archives Microfilm Publications M337, Enrolled Original Acts and Resolutions of the U.S. Congress, 1789-1823, and M1326, *Enrolled Acts and Resolutions of Congress, 53d Congress, 2d Session—84th Congress, 2d Session, 1893-1956.*

### *Related Records and Materials Outside the National Archives*

#### *Private Papers and Newspapers*

**1.127** Papers of Congressmen and Senators: There is often a close relationship between the private papers of legislators, particularly those who were committee chairmen, and official congressional committee records at the National Archives. Before the end of World War II, the amount of staff available to legislators was limited to several individuals and committee staffs were also extremely small by modern standards. Because the distinction between committee and personal staff available to legislators remained unclear until the passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the distinction between the committee records and personal papers the staff maintained was also ambiguous. The result is that original committee records and copies of committee records are often in the private collections of individual legislators.

**1.128** By tradition the papers of Members of Congress are considered the private property of the legislator. These collections have sometimes been destroyed, retained by the family, or donated to a repository. The Senate Historical Office produced the following publication that lists the locations of the extant papers of all senators who served from 1789-1982: Kathryn Allamong Jacob, editor, *Guide to Research Collections of Former United States Senators, 1789-1982* (Washington: Senate Historical Office, 1983). Copies are available free of charge from the Senate Historical Office, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. The House Office for the Bicentennial has prepared a similar compilation for House members: Cynthia Pease Miller, editor, *A Guide to Research Collections of Former Members of the House of Representatives, 1789-1987* (Washington: Office of the Bicentennial of the U.S. House of Representatives, 1988).

**1.129** The greatest concentration of papers of former legislators is in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress. The Library has published a listing of their congressional materials: John J. McDonough, compiler, *Members of Congress: A Checklist of Their Papers in the Manuscript Division, Library of Congress* (Washington: Library of Congress, 1980).

**1.130** Newspapers: Because members of Congress have long drawn the attention of political journalists, newspapers remain an excellent source of information on the opinions and activities of members. Often information that may not appear among the official records of Congress or the private papers of legislators can be gleaned from newspaper sources because many journalists enjoyed ready access to the politicians. While excellent as sources, newspapers have to be used with caution, since many of them, in the past particularly, have been overtly partisan in their point of view.

**1.131** For the 1790's, researchers should consult the *National Gazette* (1791-93), published by Philip Freneau; the *Gazette of the United States (1789-94)*, published by John Fenno; and the *Philadelphia Aurora* (1790-1835), published by Benjamin Franklin Bache and William Duane. The *National Intelligencer*, ultimately published by Joseph Gales and William Seaton, is probably the most authoritative source for the period from 1800 to the 1860's. By the mid-19th century a number of new papers devoted extensive coverage to Congress: *New York Tribune* (*New York Herald Tribune*), 1841-1964; *New York Times*, 1851-present; *Boston Journal*, 1833-1903; *New York World*, 1860-1931; Baltimore Sun, 1837-present; and the *Washington Post*, 1877-present. While all of these newspapers have been microfilmed, only The *New York Times* has been completely indexed. The *Times Index* will provide the dates of episodes that can be used to search other newspapers.

### *Office Records*

**1.132** *Architect of the Capitol*: The records of the Architect of the Capitol consist of textual, photographic, and cartographic materials concerning the Capitol Building and grounds and other related buildings. These records date from the early 19th century to the present. In addition, because the Architect has had responsibility for a number of other buildings in the Washington, DC area, there are materials on the Supreme Court; the Library of Congress; Union Station; Gallaudet University; Columbia Hospital for Women; St. Elizabeths Hospital; the Washington, DC Jail; the Botanic Garden; the Patent Office; the Post Office; the Washington Aqueduct; and statues, monuments, and memorials.

**1.133** Textual Records: The Architect's textual materials amount to about 500 linear feet that date from the 1800's to the present. Important correspondents include Benjamin Henry Latrobe, Frederick Law Olmsted, Robert Mills, David Lynn, Thomas U. Walter, George Stewart, Carrere & Hastings, William Strickland, Edward Clark, Montgomery C. Meigs, Jefferson Davis, and Joseph Henry. There is also extensive correspondence with such artists as Thomas Crawford, Constantino Brumidi, Vinnie Ream Hoxie, Clark Mills, Randolph Rogers, and William Rinehart.

**1.134** Photographic Records: The Architect maintains a collection of approximately 70,000 original photographic negatives that date from the 1850's to the present. These photographs relate principally to the Capitol itself (particularly construction projects), works of art (both paintings and sculptures), interiors of rooms, and pictures of ceremonial events such as inaugurals, joint sessions and meetings of Congress, and the unveiling of art works.

**1.135** Architectural Records: The Architect also maintains approximately 70,000 architectural drawings that relate to the Capitol Building and its grounds, and other buildings under the jurisdiction of the Architect, such as congressional office buildings, Library of Congress buildings, and the Supreme Court Building, as well as several other public buildings in Washington, DC.

**1.136** For further information researchers should write to: Curator for the Architect of the Capitol, the Capitol, Washington, DC 20515.

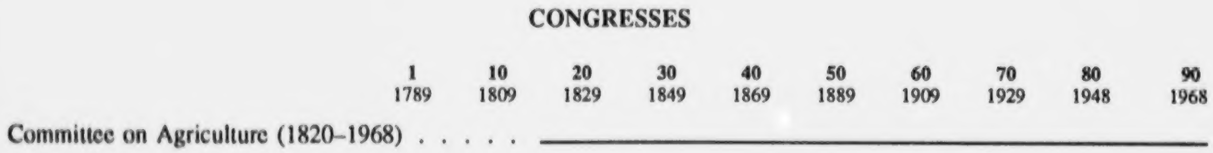
**1.137** *Senate Historical Office*: The Senate Historical Office has collected from a number of institutions approximately 30,000 photographic copies of images that relate to the Senate. The collection is organized into the following categories: portraits of senators; committees, caucuses, and meetings; groups of senators; special events; presidents and vice presidents; cartoon collections and graphic prints; demonstrations, rallies, parades, visitors; officers and employees of the Senate; Senate photographer's prints; Capitol/Senate buildings and grounds; Arthur Scott negatives; Senate photographic studio negatives; Democratic Party negatives; King Library contacts and negatives; unprinted Historical Office negatives and contacts.

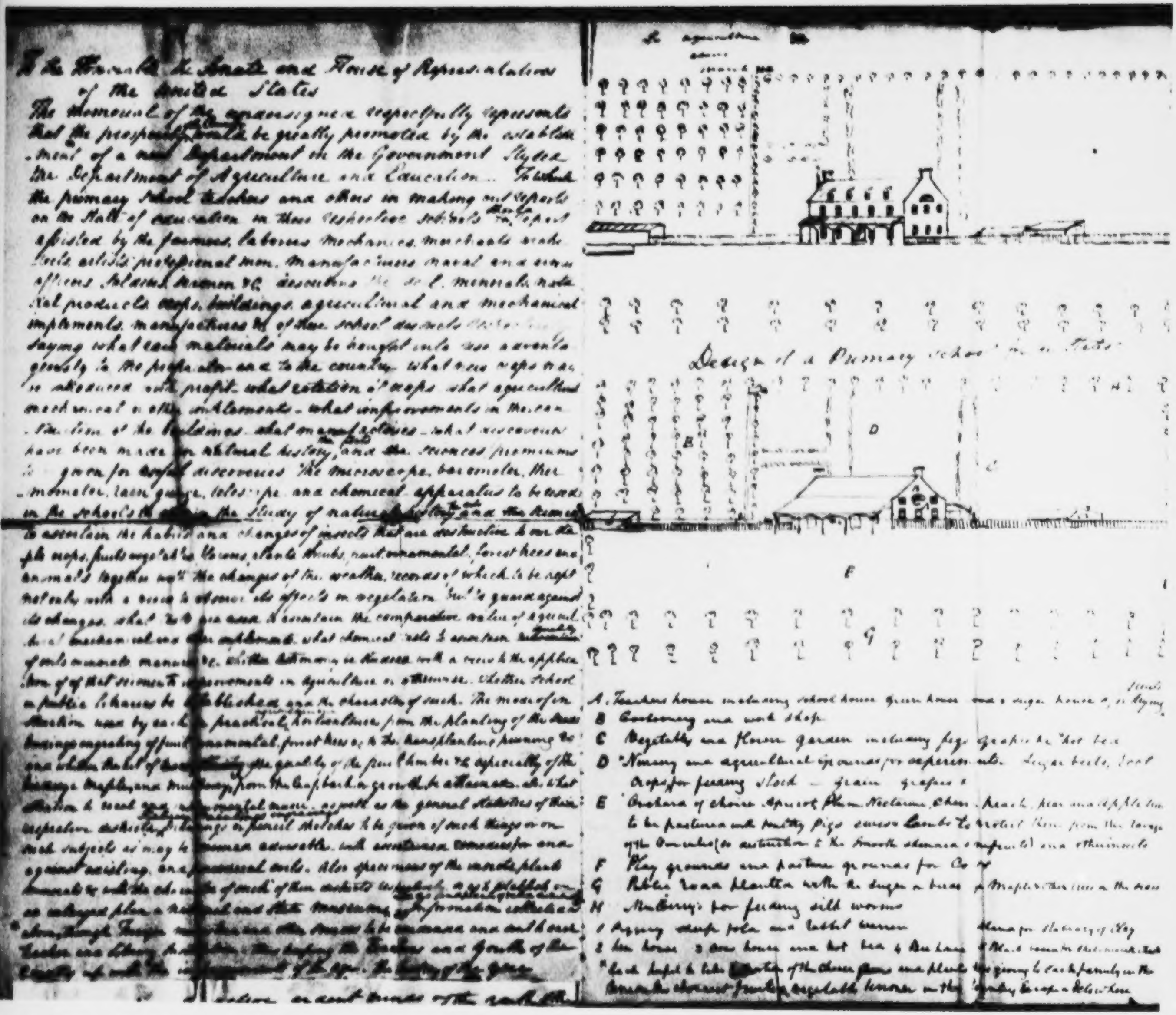
**1.138** Researchers interested in viewing or obtaining copies of these materials should write to: Senate Historical Office, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

**1.139** *Office of Senate Curator*: The Office of the Senate Curator maintains a collection of approximately 400 original prints and cartoons that relate to the Senate. The collection dates from the 1840s to the early 20th centuries. For more information contact the Office of Senate Curator, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

# Chapter 2

# RECORDS OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE





To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States
The memorial of the undersigned respectfully represents that the prosperity [illegible] would be greatly promoted by the establishment of a new Department in the Government Styled the Department of Agriculture and Education... To which the primary school teachers and others in making out reports on the State of education in their respective schools [illegible] report assisted by the farmers, laborers mechanics, merchants tradesmen artists professional men, manufacturers naval and army officers Soldiers Seamen &c describing the soil, minerals, natural products crops, buildings, agricultural and mechanical implements, manufactures &c of their school districts [illegible] saying what raw materials may be brought into use advantageously to the proprietor and to the country what new crops may be introduced with profit - what rotation of crops what agricultural mechanical & other implements - what improvements in the construction of the buildings what manufactories - what discoveries have been made in natural history, and the sciences premiums to be given for useful discoveries The microscope, barometer, thermometer, rain gauge, telescope and chemical apparatus to be used in the schools [illegible] in the study of natural history and the sciences to ascertain the habits and changes of insects that are destructive to our staple crops, fruits vegetables flowers, plants shrubs, and ornamental, forest trees and animals together with the changes of the weather, records of which to be kept not only with a view to observe its effects on vegetation but to guard against its changes. what [illegible] are used to ascertain the comparative value of agricultural mechanical and other implements. what chemical tests to ascertain [illegible] of soils minerals manures &c. whether astronomy is studied with a view to the application of of that science to improvements in agriculture or otherwise. whether school or public libraries be established and the character of such. The mode of instruction used by each in practical horticulture from the planting of the seed budding engrafting of fruit ornamental, forest trees &c to the transplanting pruning &c and whether [illegible] the quality of the fruit timber &c especially of the [illegible] Maple and Mulberry [illegible] also what attention to vocal and instrumental music - as well as the general statistics of their respective districts drawings or pencil sketches to be given of such things or on such subjects as may be deemed advisable with [illegible] for and against existing and [illegible] evils. Also specimens of the valuable plants minerals &c with the [illegible] of each of their districts [illegible] on enlarged plan a National and State Museum of information collected [illegible] to be [illegible] and sent to each Teacher and Library [illegible] the Teachers and Youths of the Country [illegible] of the Age. The history of the [illegible]

A. Teachers house including school house Green house and a sugar house &c [illegible]
B Conservatory and work shop
C Vegetable and flower garden including figs grapes &c hot bed
D *Nursery and agricultural grounds for experiments. Sugar beets, root crops for feeding stock — grain grasses &
E *Orchard of choice Apricot Plum Nectarine Cherry Peach pear and apple trees to be pastured with [illegible] pigs [illegible] Lambs to protect them from the ravage of the Curculio (so destructive to the Smooth skinned [illegible]) and other insects
F Play grounds and pasture grounds for Cow
G Public road planted with the sugar [illegible] Maple & other trees [illegible]
H Mulberry's for feeding silk worms
1 Piggery sheep fold and rabbit warren [illegible]
2 Ice house 3 Cow house and hot bed 4 Bee house [illegible]
* Each pupil to take [illegible] of the choice [illegible] and plants [illegible] giving to each family in the [illegible] choicest fruits vegetables known in this Country [illegible]

**Jos. L. Smith and his fellow memorialists submitted this memorial on March 30, 1840, proposing the establishment of a Government Department of Agriculture and Education to oversee the curriculum of the various schools. (26A-Gl.2)**

# CHAPTER 2

# RECORDS OF THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

## Agriculture Committee (1820-1968)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**2.1** The Committee on Agriculture was created on May 3, 1820, to provide a forum for the interests of the large agricultural population of the country. Representative Lewis Williams recognized the need for such a forum as he introduced the Resolution that established the committee:

> Gentlemen, say that there are, in this country, three interests, the agricultural, commercial, and manufacturing. And how happens it, sir, that the agricultural, the great leading and substantial interest in this country, has no committee—no organized tribunal in this House to hear and determine on their grievances? If commercial or manufacturing interests are affected the cry resounds throughout the country; remonstrances flow in upon us; they are referred to committees appointed for the purpose of guarding them, and adequate remedies are provided. But, sir, when agriculture is oppressed, and makes complaint, what tribunal is in this House to hear and determine on the grievances? [1]

**2.2** The formal jurisdiction of the committee thus created was defined to include matters relating to agriculture, and, after the revision of rules of 1880 it also included those related to forestry. A wide range of subjects fell under this formal jurisdiction, and the committee reported legislation for: The establishment and regulation of the Department of Agriculture, and of the Weather Bureau; the creation and maintenance of agricultural colleges and experiment stations; the regulation of animal related industries, the eradication of animal diseases, and the inspection of livestock and meat products; the regulation of the import and export of trees, scrubs, etc.; the effects of tariffs on agriculture; the adulteration of seeds and foods, and the production of imitation dairy products; the extermination of insect pests, and the protection of birds and animals in forest reserves; improvement of horse breeds, with one objective being the improvement of cavalry horses; and other related subjects.

**2.3** The Agriculture Committee reported the appropriations bills for the Department of Agriculture between 1880 and 1920, after which time this duty was returned to the Appropriations Committee.

**2.4** During the 20th century, the committee's jurisdiction expanded to include new subjects related to agriculture, and it reported legislation regarding an internal revenue tax on oleomargarine and taxes on cotton and grain futures; the Farmers Home Administration and farm credit; meat inspection; commodity programs, including the sugar program; domestic food distribution; rural electrification; and foreign assistance.

**2.5** Under the Legislative Reorganization of 1946 the jurisdiction of the committee was not changed significantly, but was formalized to include the following subjects:

> (a) Adulteration of seeds, insect pests, and protection of birds and animals in forest reserves. (b) Agriculture generally. (c) Agricultural and industrial chemistry. (d) Agricultural colleges and experiment stations. (e) Agricultural economics and research. (f) Agricultural education extension services. (g) Agricultural production and marketing and stabilization of prices of agricultural products. (h) Animal industry and soil quarantine. (i) Crop insurance and soil conservation. (j) Dairy industry. (k) Entomology and plant quarantine. (l) Extension of farm credit and farm security. (m) Forestry in general, and forest reserves other than those created from the public domain. (n) Human nutrition and home economics. (o) Inspection of livestock and meat products. (p) Plant industry, soils, and agricultural engineering. (q) Rural electrification. [2]

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[1] *Annals of the Congress of the United States*, 16th Cong., 1st sess., April 29, 1820, p. 2142.

[2] U.S. Congress, House *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 329.

*Records of the Committee on Agriculture, 16th-79th Congresses (1820-1946)**

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 3 vols. | 1881-91 | 47th-51st |
| Docket Books | 11 vols. | 1849-59, 1863-65<br>1877-91, 1895-97 | 31st-35th, 38th<br>45th-51st, 54th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 26 ft. | 1820-43, 1847-61<br>1865-67, 1877-97<br>1907-11, 1913-46 | 16th-27th, 30th-36th<br>39th, 45th-54th<br>60th-61st, 63d-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 19 ft. | 1820-23, 1825-35<br>1837-43, 1847-51<br>1871-77, 1879-81<br>1883-93, 1895-97<br>1907-9, 1913-17<br>1919-46 | 16th-17th, 19th-23d<br>25th-27th, 30th-31st<br>42d-44th, 46th<br>48th-52d, 54th<br>60th, 63d-64th<br>66th-79th |
| Bill Files | 12 ft. | 1913-46 | 63d-79th |
| TOTAL: | 57 ft. and 14 vols. (1 ft., 2 in.) | | |

*See the table after para. 2.21 for committee records for the 80th-90th Congresses.

**2.6** There are few **minute books** or **docket books** from this committee. The minute books contain a record of committee meetings for only a ten-year period of the committee's history. The docket books are useful in that they document the receipt of legislation and petitions and memorials by the committee, and often record the referral of such documents within the committee. The docket book for the 47th Congress (1881-83), for example, shows how the chairman distributed bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, and executive communications among the following subcommittees:

- Appropriations
- Animals
- Salaries and Employees
- Elevation of the Department
- Lands and the Arid Region
- Farm Products
- Seeds, Plants & Adulteration of Food
- Statistics and Entomology
- Building and Grounds
- Miscellaneous (other than appropriations)

**2.7** The oldest records of the committee are **petitions and memorials** that were referred to the committee, and original copies of the reports on these documents that were written by the committee. The earliest of these include a memorial from the United Agricultural Society of Virginia "against the use of protective tariffs except for the purpose of generating revenue" (16A-D2.1), a memorial from the New York County Agricultural Society proposing duty-free importation of seeds for use in agricultural experimentation (17A-F1.1), and petitions from the citizens of New Bedford and the inhabitants of Nantucket against a duty on imported tallow (18A-F1.1).

**2.8** A large number of petitions and memorials during the early years were from individuals who proposed to introduce new crops or farming methods into the country, but who could not do so unless Congress provided financial assistance. Samuel Saunders, for example, petitioned Congress in 1825 in the interest of "the benefits to be derived to this young and growing country by the successful introduction into it of a variety of the best vines of foreign origin" and asked Congress to pass legislation to encourage the exchange of grape vines (19A-G1.1); and John Adlum offered to write a memoir describing the techniques he had developed to cultivate grapes and make wine from the vines indigenous to the Washington, DC, area if Congress would appropriate funds to have the memoir published (20A-G2.2).

**2.9** The cultivation of mulberry trees preparatory to the introduction of silk culture in the United States was the subject of numerous petitions during the mid-19th century. Jacob Clark (20A-G2.1) and Peter DuPoncean (21A-D1.2) both petitioned Congress to pass legislation encouraging mulberry bush culture, while Jonathan Cobb, a manufacturer of silk stockings provided documentation of the quality and desirability of the products of silk culture (22A-G2.1). The American Silk Society submitted a memorial stating its belief that silk could be produced profitably in every State in the union, and included a printed copy of the journal of its annual meeting in 1839 as supporting documentation (25A-G1.1).

**2.10** Dr. Henry Perrine, the U.S. Consul to Campeche, Mexico, submitted several proposals between 1831 and 1839 for the introduction of tropical plants into the United States (22A-D2.1, 23A-G1.1, 25A-D2.1, 25A-G1.1), and Henry Lochere of Washington County, MD, petitioned for compensation for his contribution to the agriculture of the young nation, which was the introduction of the use of clover as a manure crop on high land (23A-G1.1). Other subjects of petitions and memorials included the culture of sugar beets, the distribution of seeds, and an import duty on hay (25A-G1.1)

**2.11** The need for a federal agency to promote the interests of American agriculture was evident early. Before he left the Presidency in 1796, George Washington recommended that Congress authorize the creation of a national board of agriculture, but no action was taken. Many citizens agreed with him, however, and the Agriculture Committee received suggestions for the creation of a variety of agriculture-related agencies. Memorialists proposed an agricultural and mechanical department (25A-G1.1), a department of agriculture and education (26A-G1.2), agricultural schools with dairies (30A-G2.1, 35A-G1.2), and a department of agriculture (30A-G2.1, 32A-G2.1, 33A-G2.1). In 1850, memorialists waged an organized campaign; printed petitions calling for the establishment of a bureau of agriculture were received from eight states (31A-G1.1), but they proved ineffective. It was 1862 before an agricultural department was finally created. The thrust of petitions then shifted to demand that the department be raised to cabinet level (45A-H2.4, 46A-H2.3, 50A-H1.6), a goal achieved in 1889.

**2.12** Plagues and diseases of plants and animals were the common and persistent problems addressed by petitioners. Beginning in 1848 potato rot disease was the subject of numerous petitions, many of them from researchers claiming to have discovered cures for the disease and asking for remuneration (30A-G2.1, 31A-G1.2). The records of the 31st Congress (1849-51) contain a copy of a 91-page treatise by Charles Richardson on the subject of "Potato Rot and Marsh Miasma." Contagious diseases such as pleuropneumonia or "lung plague" in cattle was the subject of much concern during the late 19th century (36A-G1.1, 45A-H2.3, 46A-H2.2, 47A-H2.1, 48A-H2.4, 49A-H2.5). Other petitions and memorials concerned extermination of the gypsy moth (54A-H1.1) and control of various plant diseases (52A-H2.1).

**2.13** Other 19th-century petitions discuss a homestead bill granting land only to persons who would settle on it and make improvements (32A-G2.1, 33A-G2.3); the use of Lt. Matthew Fontaine Maury's system of meteorological observation for the benefit of agriculture (34A-G1.1); the adulteration of food and drugs (45A-H2.1, 46A-H2.1, 50A-H1.9, 51A-H1.4, 52A-H2.6); the transmission of bees in the mails (45A-H2.7); the manufacture, sale and taxation of oleomargarine or "compound lard" (46A-H2.4, 49A-H2.3, 49A-H2.8, 51A-H1.4, 51A-H1.5); speculation in agricultural commodities (46A-H2.5, 51A-H1.6, 52A-H2.8); forest lands (45A-H2.5, 50A-H1.3); the investigation of wheat price fixing by millers, railroads, and elevators (52A-H2.3); appropriations for the extermination of the gypsy moth (54A-H1.1); and many other subjects.

**2.14** From the turn of the century until 1913 (56th-63d Congresses) few petitions or memorials have been preserved. Between 1913 and 1946 the subjects of petitions and memorials include cucumber diseases (63A-H1.6), bird protection (63A-H1.2, 64A-H1.1), vocational education (63A-H1.8, 64A-H1.7), foot-and-mouth disease (63A-H1.10), food prices (63A-H1.9), pure food and drugs (64A-H1.14), rural credits (64A-H1.15, 65A-H1.16), the cost of living (66A-H1.2), daylight-savings time (66A-H1.3), prohibition and the repeal of prohibition (66A-1.8), price stabilization (67A-H1.8), food speculation (65A-H1.9), the fertilizer shortage (65A-H1.7), filled or imitation milk (67A-H1.3), increased appropriations for agricultural experimentation stations (68A-H1.5), and other subjects.

**2.15** Following the World War I the subject of farm relief began to appear among the petitions and memorials, 1925-36 (69A-H1.6, 70A-H1.4, 71A-H1.1, 73A-H1.7, 74A-H1.5). Farmers petitioned Congress to provide legislative solutions for the severe postwar depression that hit American agriculture when wartime markets vanished and prices for agricultural commodities plummeted. The "Hurry-up" petition of 1920 (66A-H1.9), signed by 6,711 northwestern farmers demanding government action to alleviate economic hardship is an example of these. Memorialists demanded farm production profit guarantees (65A-H1.6), guaranteed prices for wheat (66A-H1.4) and corn (65A-H1.3), price stabilization (67A-H1.8), and the establishment of the Federal Farm Board to aid in the marketing and control of farm products (69A-H1.4).

**2.16** The 1924 McNary-Haugen bill which sought to prevent glutted markets by controlling surplus commodities and stabilizing prices was the subject of hundreds of memorials (68A-H1.2, 4 in.), most of them favoring the bill. The 1924 memorial of the Kittson County Export League is characteristic of many:

> When the economic conditions of the country become so unbalanced that a large percentage of the people who are engaged in agriculture cannot get enough returns from the products of their labor to enable them to continue in business we believe it is self evident that a national emergency exists that calls for Congressional action to restore the purchasing power of the products of the farm to parity with the products of industry and labor. . . . We respectfully ask that our representatives in Congress and in the U.S. Senate do everything in their power to secure the enactment of legislation such as is embodied in the McNary-Haugen bill.

Other organizations, such as the International Farm Congress of America, opposed the legislation because it constituted an indirect method of fixing the prices of farm products.

**2.17** Later memorialists demanded passage of the Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage refinancing bill in 1935-38 (75A-H1.3, 76A-H1.4) and suggested legislation concerning loans (76A-H1.7), interest rates (76A-H1.6), parity prices for agricultural products (77A-H1.3), crop insurance (78A-H1.3), cooperatives (76A-H1.1), farm credit (76A-H1.4, 78A-H1.5), incentive payments (78A-H1.10), funding of school lunch programs (78A-H1.17, 79A-H1.4) and, a roll back of farm prices (78A-H1.15). The Agricultural Adjustment Acts of 1933 and 1938 and their amendments prompted memorials for many years (74A-H1.1, 77A-H1.1, 78A-H1.1); these acts were intended to establish parity between farm income and the national income.

**2.18** The **committee papers** from the earliest years of the committee (1820-48) consist primarily of the original copies of committee reports on petitions and memorials. In some cases they contain supporting documents that were submitted to the committee to accompany petitions or memorials. For example, Peter DuPoncean, mentioned earlier as a petitioner (see para. 2.9), was a Philadelphia lawyer and horticulturist who was so concerned about the failure of the "mulberry bill" to pass during the 20th Congress (1827-29) that he made additional scientific observations, corresponded with a French expert, and submitted his findings to the committee (21A-D1.1).

**2.19** After the 48th Congress (1883-85) the committee papers files consist of copies of the bills and resolutions that were referred to the committee and a correspondence file that is usually arranged by subject. The correspondence subjects are often closely related to the subjects of pending legislation. Beginning in the 76th Congress the committee papers contain a series of executive communications that consists primarily of correspondence and reports from the Department of Agriculture.

**2.20** Numerous transcripts of unprinted hearings are among the records. Testimony taken at committee hearings may be filed under the appropriate subject heading in the correspondence subject files, or testimony from several hearings may be filed under the heading "hearings" in the correspondence file. After 1903 transcripts of testimony may also be found in the bill files. The records include transcripts of some very early hearings before the committee, such as a May 5, 1886 hearing on H.R. 2318 and H.R. 2506, "Extending the benefits of the U.S. Signal Corps for the relief of farmers" (49A-F2.3) and a May 1888 hearing on "The development of arid regions of the west by irrigation" (50A-F2.2).

**2.21** Transcripts of six hearings that were never published are in the bill files from 1933-34 (73A-D1), filed along with correspondence and other records relating to specific bills or resolutions. The committee papers of 1943-46 (78A-F2.2, 79A-F2.2) contain unpublished hearing transcripts, filed together under the heading "hearings." In order to locate all of the records that relate to a given subject, bill or resolution, a researcher must search both the committee papers file and the bill files.

**2.22** The **bill files** are uneven in the amount of documentation they provide. In some cases they contain copies of printed bills, resolutions, committee reports and hearings; transcripts of unprinted hearings; correspondence; and related petitions and memorials. In other cases the files contain no unpublished material. Much of the correspondence consists of comments on legislation from the Department of Agriculture. The subjects of the unprinted transcripts of hearings include the Tobacco Inspection Act of 1934 (73A-D1), a 1944 investigation into the tobacco and cigarette shortage (78A-D2), and 1920 cold storage legislation (66A-D1).

**2.23** The bill file for H.R. 3157, 66th Cong., the Agriculture Department appropriations bill, contains the engrossed bill as well as Woodrow Wilson's message of July 11, 1919, vetoing the legislation because of a rider repealing a daylight-savings law (66A-D1).

### *Records of the Committee on Agriculture, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 3 ft. | 1955-68 | 84th-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 3 ft. | 1947-64, 1967-68 | 80th-88th, 90th |
| Comm. Papers | 53 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 9 ft. | 1947-58 | 80th-85th |
| TOTAL: | 68 ft. | | |

*See table after para. 2.5 for committee records for the 16th-79th Congresses.

**2.24** The **minutes** from the 80th-83d Congresses (1947-53) are not among the records in the National

Archives, but those for the 84th through 90th Congresses contain an unusually thorough record of the activities of the full committee and its subcommittees. The minutes of the full committee and subcommittees are recorded on loose-leaf pages and arranged in chronological order, so that all the subcommittee and full committee meetings for a given day are filed together. They contain records of executive as well as open sessions, and usually contain an outline of the business covered at each meeting, as well as the counts from roll-call votes. Other than the minutes, there are no records of the subcommittees in the National Archives.

**2.25** Small numbers of **petitions and memorials** document the opinions of individuals, agricultural organizations, and State legislatures regarding subjects such as foot and mouth disease, forestry, parity pricing, agricultural research, rural electrification, soil conservation, the Steagall Amendment to the Commodity Credit Act, and the sale of submarginal lands (80A-H1); oleomargarine, price supports, the Federal Farm Loan Act, and the fruit fly (81A-H1); sugar quotas, surplus farm commodities, weed control on federally owned land, and wheat for Pakistan (83A-H1); the humane slaughter of livestock and poultry (85A-H1); a stamp plan for the distribution of surplus food, and the amendment and extension of the Sugar Act of 1948 (87A-H1), and various other subjects.

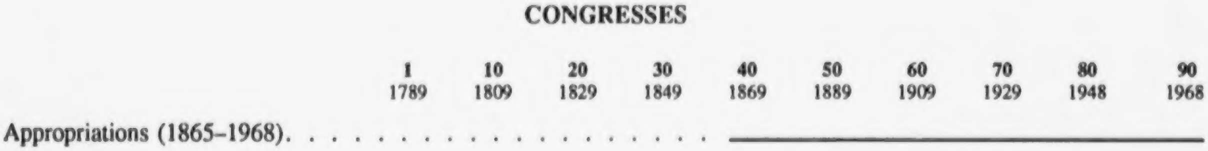
**2.26** Over half of the **committee papers** consist of executive communications (31 ft.), most of which are letters from the Secretary of Agriculture transmitting a wide variety of reports, recommendations, and legislation. The executive communications transmitted by the Secretary in 1955 and 1956, for instance, included: Reports from the Farm Credit Administration, the Federal Extension Service, the Administrator of the Rural Electrification Administration, the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, and the Mexican-U.S. Commission for the Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease; drafts of legislation to amend the Federal Farm Loan Act, the Commodity Exchange Act, the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act, and the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act; and a variety of other communications. The executive communications for the 88th-90th Congresses are segregated with papers dealing with watershed projects are all filed together as a readily identifiable segment of the series.

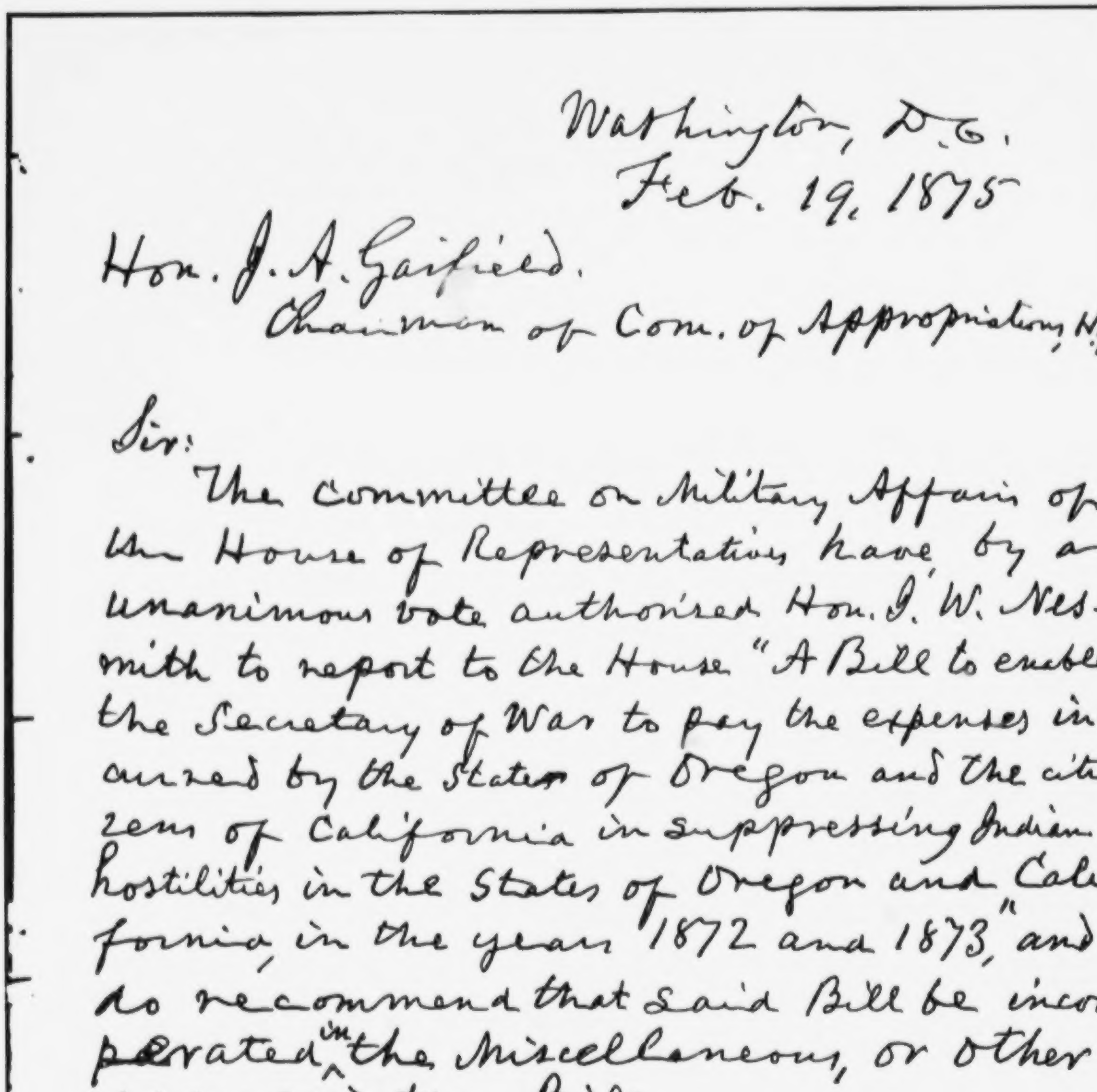
**2.27** The records of the 81st, 82d, and 84th through 86th Congresses contain transcripts of unprinted hearings. They are on such subjects as: Anthrax (1952), the importation of certain giant snails into the country (1950), watershed policies (1960), tobacco marketing quotas and acreage allotments (1951), a Mexican labor agreement (1949), floricultural products (1952), the use of MH-30 to eliminate the problem of suckers (1960), chicken respiratory diseases (1952), foot-and-mouth disease (1949) and a foot-and-mouth disease laboratory (1952). The committee paper files usually contain copies of the committee calendar for most Congresses and copies of all the printed hearings and committee prints produced by the committee during that Congress. Also included for most Congresses are the original Messages from the President that were referred to the committee; an example is Harry S. Truman's message of April 3, 1950 on Agricultural Adjustment Act Amendments and price supports for potatoes (81A-F1.3).

**2.28** **Bill files** for the 80th through 85th Congresses consist primarily of copies of all bills and resolutions referred to the committee, accompanied by copies of the printed committee reports and printed hearings. Some of the bill files for the 80th, 83d, and 87th Congresses contain communications from the Department of Agriculture regarding the legislation. The bill files from the 82d Congress contain several transcripts of unprinted hearings.

# Chapter 3

# RECORDS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE





Washington, D.C.
Feb. 19. 1875

Hon. J. A. Garfield.
Chairman of Com. of Appropriations, H. of R.

Sir:

The Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives have, by a unanimous vote authorised Hon. J. W. Nesmith to report to the House "A Bill to enable the Secretary of War to pay the expenses incurred by the State of Oregon and the citizens of California in suppressing Indian hostilities in the States of Oregon and California, in the years 1872 and 1873," and do recommend that said Bill be incorporated in the Miscellaneous, or other appropriation Bill.

Very respectfully
your obedient servant,

John Coburn
Chairman

*This letter from John Coburn, chairman of the Military Affairs Committee to James A Garfield, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, is typical of the inter-committee communications that have always facilitated the passage of legislation. (43A-F3.26)*

# CHAPTER 3

# RECORDS OF THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## Committee on Appropriations 1865-1968

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**3.1** The Constitution of the United States specifies that "All bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives, but the Senate may propose or concur with amendments as on other bills." Over the years the prerogative of the House to originate appropriation bills (as well as revenue-raising bills) has been the subject of numerous controversies, but, "while there has been dispute as to the theory, there has been no deviation from the practice that the general appropriation bills (as distinguished from special bills appropriating for single, specific purposes) originate in the House of Representatives."[1]

**3.2** The earliest appropriations bills were written by select committees on instruction from the Committee of the Whole House, and later ones by the standing Committee on Ways and Means. As the appropriation requirements of the Government became more complex, the number of separate appropriation bills prepared each year grew from one in 1789 to as many as 21 during the 1850s. By that time the Ways and Means Committee controlled all of the appropriation bills but three: general public works, lighthouses and associated expenses, and rivers and harbors.[2]

**3.3** With the coming of the Civil War, increased demands for revenue and appropriations combined to produce a tremendous workload for the Ways and Means Committee. Consequently, that part of the committee's jurisdiction relating to appropriations was invested in a newly created Committee on Appropriations which was charged with "the examination of the estimates of the Departments and exclusively the consideration of all appropriations."[3] Thaddeus Stevens, who was chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, surrendered that position in order to chair the new committee. Within a short time the Appropriations Committee itself was overburdened by a heavy workload, partly because House rules allowed the committee to add germane legislation to appropriations bills. This practice contributed to the jealousy of members of other committees, and demands for the dispersal of appropriations bills to the authorizing committees.[4]

**3.4** Between 1877 and 1885 eight of the appropriations bills were transferred from the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee to the committees with legislative jurisdiction. The agriculture bill, Army bill, Navy bill, Indian bill, District of Columbia bill, post office bill, rivers and harbors bill, and diplomatic and consular bill were given to the appropriate authorizing committees, while the Appropriations Committee retained jurisdiction of the fortification, legislative, executive and judicial, pension, sundry civil, and deficiency bills only.[5] Jurisdiction over the appropriations bills remained disbursed among the several committees until the House Rule reforms of 1920, when the responsibility for all general appropriation bills was again centralized in the Appropriations Committee.

**3.5** The jurisdiction of the Appropriations Committee since 1865 has been defined as including "appropriation of the revenue for the support of the Government" except for the period between 1885 and 1920 when House rules specified the particular appropriation bills for which the committee was responsible.[6]

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[1] Asher C. Hinds, *Hind's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States.* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907) vol. 2, p.973. See also "The Supply Bills" by Hon. John Sharp Williams printed as S. Doc. 872, 62d Cong., 2d sess. 1912.

[2] Walter Kravitz, "A Brief History of Appropriation Committees and Procedure in Congress Before 1867," (April 18, 1983), Legislative Reference Service Report, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., p. 29.

[3] *Congressional Globe*, 38th Cong., 2d sess., Mar. 2, 1865, p. 1312.

[4] *Congressional Record*, 89th Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 2, 1965, p. 3960.

[5] Clarence Cannon, *Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1935) vol. 7, p. 717.

[6] See for example *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 52d Cong., 1st sess., Appendix p. ii.

***Records of the Committee on Appropriations, 39th-79th Congresses (1865-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 10 ft. | 1865-1917, 1919-21<br>1933-34, 1937-41 | 39th-64th, 66th<br>73d, 75th-76th |
| Comm. Papers | 172 ft. | 1865-1941, 1943-44 | 39th-76th, 78th |
| TOTAL: | 182 ft. | | |

**3.6** The records of this committee are incomplete and archival (unpublished) documentation is missing entirely for a large part of its history. There are no **minute books** and **docket books** in the custody of the National Archives. Minute books from 1865 to the present do exist, but they are in the Appropriations Committee offices in the Capitol Building.

**3.7** The **petitions and memorials** referred to the Appropriations Committee included the types of requests that had been referred to the Ways and Means Committee prior to 1865. The subjects they cover are numerous and varied. Although they reflect the changing interests of constituents, some kinds of requests remained fairly constant. Appeals for special appropriations for the relief of victims of disasters appear regularly among the petitions and memorials as do proposals to increase funding for specific Government programs and prayers for the appropriation of funds to finance special commemorative ceremonies and expositions, to build or improve certain Government buildings, and to provide salary increases for Government employees.

**3.8** The petitions received during the early decades of the committee's existence also reflect the wide range of unique activities that the Government was asked to support. Among the first petitions received by the new committee was a proposal to appropriate funds for a reward for the apprehension of the assassin John Wilkes Booth (39A-H2.2). Other early petitions include an appeal for appropriations for the removal of the wreck of the steam ship *Scotland* at Sandy Hook, NJ (39A-H2.2).

**3.9** Petitions received between 1865 and 1881 appeal for relief for destitute colored women and children (46A-H3.5); and demand financial aid for building projects such as the construction of a bridge across the Mississippi River at Rock Island, IL (40A-H1.2), and a signal station on Block Island, RI (44A-H1.8). Petitions for pay increases for Government employees and for the construction of buildings to house post offices and other Government Functions appear reportedly in the records of this period.

**3.10** During this period also, demands for Government support for scientific research are evidenced by petitions and memorials requesting funding for such purposes as an Arctic exploring expedition to be led by Captain C. F. Hall (41A-H1.4), the free distribution of agricultural seeds by the government (44A-H1.3), the establishment of a national medical library in Washington, DC (44A-H1.5), the development of a scientific method of testing iron and steel (44A-H1.6, 45A-H3.2), the appointment of a committee of entomologists to study the boll weevil (46A-H3.1), and surveys of the Black Hills in Dakota Territory (46A-H3.9).

**3.11** The petitions and memorials from the 1880-1900 period generally cover the same types of subjects. Numerous citizens submitted proposals in support of the development of scientific, cultural, and educational enterprises, requesting appropriations for a telegraphic cable between Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, MA (47A-H3.13); for the Government Hydrographic Office (47A-H3.6, 49A-H3.3, 50A-H2.7) and the National Board of Health; for the control of contagious diseases (47A-H3.7); for education in Alaska (48A-H3.1) and education of the Indians (48A-H3.2); for the purchase of the Rand and Ordway collection of photographic negatives of the Civil War (48A-H3.10); for the organization of a steam transportation section in the National Museum (49A-H3.8); and, for the preservation and publication of the records of the Continental Congress (54A-G3.2).

**3.12** During the last two decades of the century petitioners sought funding for the relief of victims of storms, floods, and droughts (48A-H3.12, 49A-H3.11, 50A-H3.5, 52A-H3.6); for payments for damages caused by improvements to the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers in Wisconsin (49A-H3.10); for the payment of a bounty to sugar producers in 1894 (53A-H3.4); for aid to various social service activities (49A-H3.2); and for the establishment of marine hospitals (48A-H3.4) and construction of a new building for the Government Printing Office (52A-H3.1, 53A-H3.1). Other citizens suggested that the Government support international meetings and exhibitions held in the United States by helping to defray the expenses of such events as the 1887 International Medical Congress (49A-H3.1) and the 1893 Pan American Medical Congress (52A-H3.5), both held in Washington, DC and by appropriating funds for a Government exhibit at the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition at Atlanta, GA (53A-H3.2). Some petitioners called for the enforcement of certain laws such as one regulating the sale of oleomargarine (50A-H2.2) and others protested the appropriation of funds for sectarian purposes (54A-H3.3, 55A-H1.2) and the passage of legislation endangering the preservation of forest reserves (55A-H1.1).

**3.13** Between 1900 and 1921 citizens looked to the Government to finance scientific investigations to determine the working conditions of women employed in the industries of the United States (59A-H1.2), the extent of pollution of the Great Lakes (62A-H1.5), and the causes of influenza (66A-H2.5). They advocated tuberculosis research (63A-H2.10) and the establishment of a psychophysical laboratory in the Interior Department (57A-H1.2); and demanded protection for the weak in society through enforcement of such legislation as the White Slave Traffic Act (62A-H1.8, 63A-H2.11) and adequate funding for such agencies as the Children's Bureau (63A-H2.1), the U.S. Interdepartmental Social Hygiene Board (66A-H2.1), and the U.S. Employment Service (66A-H2.7). Other petitioners championed the causes of persons who suffered from disasters such as the heirs of the passengers who perished when the steamer *General Slocum* burned in New York harbor in 1904 (60A-H3.6).

**3.14** Petitioners also supported the preservation of battle monuments (56A-H1.1) and Abraham Lincoln's birthplace (61A-H2.4) and protested the abolishment of pension offices in the States and the consolidation of pension activities in the Washington, DC office (59A-H1.1, 60A-H3.2, 61A-H2.1) and the proposed fortification of the Panama Canal (63A-H2.8). Some petitioners sought funding for a veteran's encampment at Vicksburg, MS, intended to commemorate the Civil War semicentennial (63A-H2.4) and for road construction and improvement (60A-H3.7). Others favored enforcement of anti-trust laws against labor unions (63A-H2.6) and the adoption of a new national budget system (66A-H2.6).

**3.15** The petition and memorial files for this committee are missing for the 67th through 79th Congresses (1921-46) except for three Congresses: the 73d, 75th, and 76th. These three Congresses cover most of the Great Depression years, and the petitions and memorials reflect the economic conditions in the nation. Petitioners were concerned about the funding of relief agencies such as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and some of its programs: The Federal Art, Theatre, and Music projects (75A-H2.6, 76A-H2.16, 76A-H2.4, 76A-2.6, and 76A-H2.7). They demanded additional aid for public works (73A-H2.1), emergency aid for public schools (73A-H2.4, 75A-H2.1), and the restoration of benefits to war-disabled veterans (73A-H2.12). They also requested funding for public health activities and research (73A-H2.9), the control of venereal diseases (76A-H2.15), flood control and flood relief (75A-H2.3), and a study of Dutch elm disease (76A-H2.3). Not all petitioners wanted to expend Federal funds, however; some advocated the reduction of federal expenditures (75A-H2.5).

**3.16** There are **committee papers** for every Congress from the creation of the committee in 1865 until 1944, with the exception of the 77th Congress (1941-42). There are three distinct periods in the arrangement of the committee papers files of this committee: the committee papers from the 1865-87 period are a continuation of the pre-1865 Ways and Means committee papers, the 1887-1919 files are arranged by appropriation bill name, and the 1919-45 files consist primarily of committee correspondence files bound into volumes and indexed. Records from subcommittee investigations in the 76th and 78th Congresses account for 50 ft. of the committee papers (see para. 3.23). There are no unpublished records of the committee for the years between 1945 and 1977.

**3.17** The committee papers from the first 22 years of the committee's existence (1865-87) are arranged by executive department or agency and consist primarily of documents demonstrating the work of each organization, and its need for funding. In addition to the Agency files, certain records are filed by subject such as the records relating to the 1882 yellow fever epidemic in Florida and Texas (47A-F3.20). The records are substantially an extension of those of the Ways and Means Committee prior to 1865, reflecting that committee's filing practices and the influence of Chairman Stevens.

**3.18** The committee papers for most Congresses during this period include records for the executive Departments—Navy, Post Office, Treasury, State, War, Agriculture, Interior, and Justice. These department records are sometimes further broken down and filed by bureaus or programs within the Departments; the records of the Interior Department, for instance, are variously filed under the following subcategories: Indians, General Land Office, Pensions, Patent Office, personnel, public buildings, commissions, public lands, and a general category. The records consist of correspondence describing the personnel, conditions, resources, needs, programs, and other data relative to the appropriations of the Agency or Department.

**3.19** In addition to records for the executive departments, files relating to claims, the District of Columbia, the Smithsonian Institution, federal courts including the Court of Claims, the House of Representatives, the Office of the Public Printer, and the Library of Congress are found regularly among the records between 1865 and 1887. During this period, committee correspondence is documented in two letterpress copy books which contain copies of the outgoing correspondence of the committee between the 40th and 51st Congresses, 1867-91 (40A-G2.21, 46A-F3.23).

**3.20** Between the 50th and 65th Congresses (1887-1919) the committee papers consist primarily of correspondence and other documents arranged by the appropriation bill to which they relate. These records can be difficult to search because they are arranged by the appropriation bill name rather than number, and the bills from both legislative sessions may be filed under the same heading. The sundry civil expenses appropriation bills for 1887 and for 1888, for instance, were filed together under the heading "sundry civil expenses bill (50A-F3.5)". It was during this period that the appropriations bills were dispersed among the authorizing committees, and the Appropriations Committee controlled only six of the bills. The records for this period generally consist of files on the following: the District of Columbia bill, the fortifications bill, the deficiency bill, the pension bill, the sundry civil expenses bill, and the legislative, executive and judicial bill. -

**3.21** Beginning in the 66th Congress (1919-21) the committee papers consist largely of bound volumes of incoming letters received. The letters are arranged chronologically and are numbered and indexed. The index cards are preserved along with the correspondence in most cases. These correspondence files may be quite voluminous; for instance, the correspondence file for 1921-23 (67A-F2.2) includes 801 letters (18 in.) and a card file indexing the letters (9 in.).

**3.22** Approximately 45 feet of records document the work of the **Subcommittee On The Works Progress Administration (WPA)** during 78th Congress (1939-40). The subcommittee was established in response to a House Resolution submitted by Eugene Cox authorizing the investigation of the WPA. The final report of the subcommittee described the results as follow: ". . . the investigation has had a very wholesome effect upon the administration of the work program under the direction of the W.P.A. . . . There has been a noticeable trend of better administration commencing with the authorization for the investigation and continuing on a rising curve."[7]

**3.23** The records of the subcommittee (76A-F2.2, 45 ft.) include a general correspondence file (8 ft.); administrative records of the subcommittee (2 ft.); reports of subcommittee investigators (3 ft.); transcripts of hearings, including exhibits and material submitted but not incorporated into the transcripts (4 ft.); payrolls of WPA employees (1 ft.); records of J.O. Roberts, the subcommittee counsel (2 ft.); and various records of investigations (28 ft.). National Archives *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives: Subcommittee on the Works Progress Administration* provides detailed lists of the folder titles for these records.

**3.24** The Appropriations Committee **Subcommittee To Investigate Subversive Activities** was appointed to investigate the charges made on the floor of the House by Martin Dies on February 1, 1943 against 39 named employees of the Federal Government. The records of the subcommittee (78A-F3.2, 5 ft.) include administrative records (4 in.); transcripts of executive session hearings (3 in.); and investigative records relating to certain Government employees including staff memoranda, investigative reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, transcripts of testimony taken by the House Un-American Activities Committee and other documents (4 ft., 6 in.).

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[7] U.S. Congress, House, H. Rept. 2187, 76th Cong., 3d sess., 1940, p. 6.

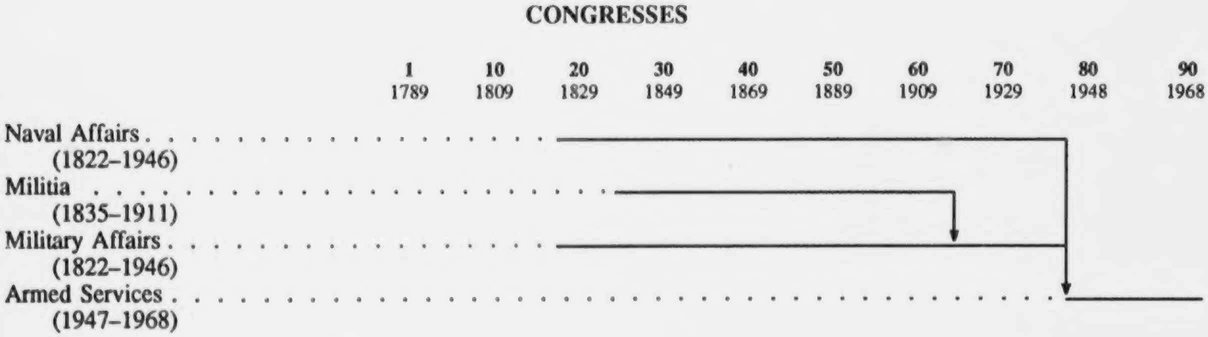
***Records of the Committee on Appropriations, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)***

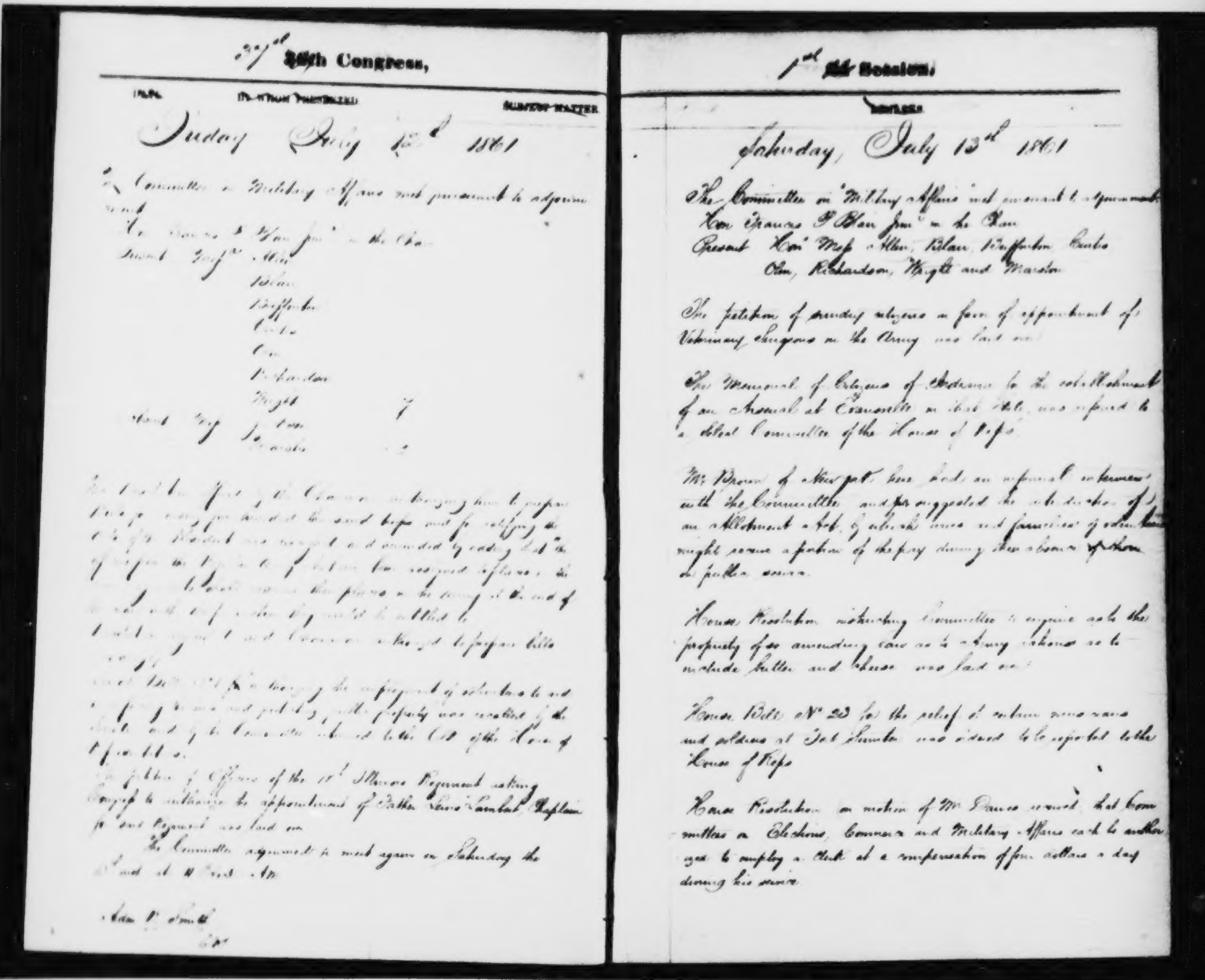
| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | No records | | |
| Docket Books | No records | | |
| Comm. Papers | No records | | |
| Petitions & Mem. | No records | | |

**3.25** There are no unpublished records from this committee from the 1947-69 period.

# Chapter 4

# RECORDS OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND ITS PREDECESSORS


CONGRESSES
1
1789
10
1809
20
1829
30
1849
40
1869
50
1889
60
1909
70
1929
80
1948
90
1968
Naval Affairs
(1822–1946)
Militia
(1835–1911)
Military Affairs
(1822–1946)
Armed Services
(1947–1968)



37th ~~36th~~ Congress,

No. By whom presented Subject-matter

Friday July 12th 1861

The Committee on Military Affairs met pursuant to adjournment

Hon Francis P Blair Jun^r in the Chair

Present Messrs Allen
Blair
Buffinton
Curtis
Olin
Richardson
Wright 7
Absent Messrs Jackson
Marston 2

[illegible]

The petition of Officers of the 10th Illinois Regiment asking Congress to authorize the appointment of Father Louis Lambert, Chaplain for said Regiment was laid over

The Committee adjourned to meet again on Saturday the 13th inst at 11 o'clock AM

Adam P. Smith
Clk

1st ~~2d~~ Session.

Remarks

Saturday, July 13th 1861

The Committee on Military Affairs met pursuant to adjournment

Hon Francis P Blair Jun^r in the Chair

Present Hon Mess Allen, Blair, Buffinton, Curtis
Olin, Richardson, Wright and Marston

The petition of sundry citizens in favor of appointment of Veterinary Surgeons in the Army was laid over

The Memorial of Citizens of Indiana for the establishment of an Arsenal at Evansville in that State, was referred to a Select Committee of the House of Reps

Mr Brown of [illegible] has had an informal interview with the Committee and has suggested the introduction of an Allotment Act, by which wives and families of volunteers might secure a portion of the pay during their absence upon the public service.

House Resolution instructing Committee to inquire as to the propriety of so amending law as to Army rations as to include butter and cheese was laid over

House Bill No 20 for the relief of certain [illegible] and soldiers at Fort Sumter was ordered to be reported to the House of Reps

House Resolution on motion of Mr Dawes resolved that Committees on Elections, Commerce and Military Affairs each be authorized to employ a Clerk at a compensation of four dollars a day during his service

*Pages from the minute book of the Committee on Military Affairs during the early days of the 37th Congress show some of the subjects the committee dealt with in preparation for the long and costly Civil War. (37A-E10.6)*

# CHAPTER 4

## THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE AND ITS PREDECESSORS

### Introduction

**4.1** The Armed Services Committee was created by the Legislative Reorganziation Act of 1946. This chapter includes descriptions of the records of the Armed Services Committee and the three committees that were its predecessors. Two of these, the Committee on Military Affairs and the Committee on Naval Affairs, were established as standing committees in 1822. They continued to function until they were abolished by the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. The Committee on the Militia, the third predecessor committee, was created in 1835 and existed until 1911 when it was abolished and its jurisdiction transferred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

### Committee on Military Affairs, 1822-1946

**4.2** The Constitution of the United States grants Congress the powers to raise and support armies, and to make rules for the administration and regulation of land forces under the command of the President. In the House, a succession of select committees considered legislation on military affairs from 1811 until 1822, when the House established a standing Committee on Military Affairs. Section 12 of House Rule XI covered the committee's original purview and provided that:

> It shall be the duty of the said Committee on Military Affairs to take into consideration all subjects relating to the military establishment and public defense, which may be referred to them by the House, and report, from time to time, such measures as may contribute to the economy and accountability in the said establishment.[1]

The committee assumed responsibility for affairs relating to the State militias when a rule change in 1911 abolished the Committee on the Militia.

**4.3** Under the rule change of 1885 the committee was authorized to report the appropriation bills covering the military establishment, the public defense, and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY. The committee reported the military appropriation bills until 1920 when that power was transferred to the Appropriations Committee.

**4.4** Also included in the jurisdiction of the committee were subjects such as the establishment and care of national cemeteries and battlefields; acquisition and conveyance of lands for military reservations and improvements upon such grounds; disposition of war trophies and distribution of obsolete weapons and armament; conduct of joint operations of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps; and promotion of military aviation and Army aeronautics. The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished the Committee on Military Affairs and transferred its jurisdiction to the newly-created Armed Services Committee.

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[1] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 17th Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 13, 1822, p. 351.

***Records of the Committee on Military Affairs, 17th-79th Congresses (1822-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 35 vols. | 1855-57, 1861-67<br>1871-75, 1877-1927<br>1933-46 | 34th, 37th-39th<br>42d-43d, 45th-69th<br>73d-79th |
| Docket Books | 70 vols. | 1825-1917 | 19th-64th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 25 ft. | 1811-95, 1897-1919<br>1921-31, 1937-41<br>1943-46 | 12th-53d, 55th-65th<br>67th-71st, 75th-76th<br>78th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 74 ft. | 1811-1946 | 12th-79th |
| Bill Files | 97 ft. | 1903-13, 1915-46 | 58th-62d, 64th-79th |
| TOTAL: 196 ft. and 105 vols. (8 ft.) | | | |

**4.5** There are no **minute books** for the period between 1822 and 1854, but minutes do exist for most Congresses from 1855-1946. The minutes show the dates of committee meetings and identify the members and witnesses present at discussions, debates, and hearings. They record motions made and resolutions introduced; referrals of petitions, bills, and other documents; votes on bills and resolutions; and reports adopted or rejected. Many of the books after 1909 also feature typewritten entries and memorandums and letters of committee members occasionally were inserted in the volumes. Beginning with the 64th Congress, the books contain proceedings of both open and executive sessions of the whole committee and its various subcommittees. Some of the minute books were transferred to the Armed Services Committee along with the committee's jurisdictional responsibilities, and those volumes have been retired as part of the Armed Services Committee's Library Collection (see para. 4.119).

**4.6** The **docket books** are numerous. The format consists of the date of the bill or claim considered, the name of the member who introduced a measure, and occasional remarks by the chairman on the action taken on a particular item. The docket books for the 64th Congress contain typewritten entries providing a systematic numbering scheme for bills, resolutions, and reports. Some volumes are indexed, and other volumes include alphabetically arranged lists of the subjects and bills considered.

**4.7** The **petitions and memorials** the committee received cover a wide variety of subjects relating to the management of the Army establishment and the promotion of American preparedness. Handwritten petitions and memorials from individuals, citizens' groups, or lobbying organizations are most common, but printed memorials and resolutions from State legislatures are also numerous. Legal documents, such as testimonies or notarized papers, often accompany claims for the relief of individuals or groups. During the 58th Congress (1903-5) the committee began filing some applications for pensions, compensation, or other forms of relief, in a newly created series of records called bill files. Because such claims had accounted for a large proportion of the petitions and memorials the number of documents filed in the petitions series is considerably reduced after 1903. With claims eliminated, the petitions and memorials consist primarily of resolutions and memorials received from State legislatures, complaints from trade associations, prayers of civic and veterans' organizations, and protests from religious societies and labor unions.

**4.8** Some petitions referred to in the discussion that follows predate the establishment of the standing Committee on Military Affairs during the 17th Congress. Such petitions and memorials were received by predecessor select committees.

**4.9** Claims of veterans for pensions, bounty lands, or compensation for services rendered, personal property lost, or injuries sustained in wartime account for a large proportion of the petitions and memorials. Veterans of the War of 1812 prayed for committee intervention in securing and settling Indian lands "conquered by" Maj. Gen. William Henry Harrison from the "faithless Indian nations" (12A-F6.1). Volunteer soldiers who served on the Canadian border similarly prayed for compensation for property losses sustained at the hands of marauding Indians (32A-G12.2, 36A-G11.1). Recurrent wars with the Seminole Indians, 1820-40, also led to claims from Regular Army officers or State militia members for relief or compensation from Congress (18A-F10.1, 29A-G10.2, 36A-G11.1). Between 1850 and 1857 members of State militias who had served in the Mexican War or had fought Indians in the Southwest, claimed compensation from Congress. The Civil War, however, produced the greatest number of veterans' claims. The records of every Congress between 1865 and 1885 contain petitions from Union veterans who either prayed for bounty lands in the West, asked Congress to amend the 1862 Homestead Act to authorize grants of 160 acres of land without the 5-year prior settlement requirement, or demanded an equalization of bounty money paid by the Government to wartime volunteers who had joined the Army at different times (31A-G11.1, 32A-G12.2, 33A-G12.1, 34A-G11.1, 41A.H7.10).

**4.10** A large number of the claims are from widows or guardians of the children of deceased servicemen who asked for pensions, annuities, or other relief. For example, petitions recounting the plight of widows, mothers, and relatives of soldiers killed in the War of 1812 are among the records of several Congresses (14A-F7.2, 18A-F10.1, 23A-G11.1, 25A-G11.1, 27A-G12.1, 36A-G11.1). One petitioner, who wanted bounty land, was Maria Fabler, the widow of veteran Benjamin Fabler, a "West Indian or Mulatto" member of a regiment of black soldiers from Philadelphia, who had died in 1818 (24A-G11.1). Not all claims were war-related; Matilda B. Dunn prayed for congressional aid following the 1829 murder of her husband, Col. Thomas B. Dunn, Superintendent of the U.S. Armory at Harpers Ferry, VA (21A.G12.1).

**4.11** State legislatures and citizens' groups who backed or participated in various military actions sought compensation for expenses incurred during expeditions against the Spanish in Florida and the Southwest and the hostile Indians in the Northwest, Florida, the Southwest, and upper New York State (12A-F6.1, 13A-G7.1, 24A-G11.1, 25A-G11.1, 33A-D10.10, 35A-G12.1, 36A-G11.3, 41A-H7.1). Also among the petitions are claims from citizens who held the Army or militia forces either directly or indirectly responsible for damaged or destroyed private property (23A-G11.1, 30A-G12.1, 31A-G11.2, 33A-G12.14, 36A-G11.1). Such a claim came from Mexican rancher Jose de Arquello of Santiago, CA, who demanded relief for extensive property losses sustained at the hands of Mexican troops in reprisal for his wartime support of the forces of the United States (32A-G12.2).

**4.12** Another substantial number of petitions and memorials came from individual citizens, lobbying groups, State legislatures, and civic associations for improvements in the military establishment. Examples of these are petitions from Ohio militia (19A-G11.2), and the Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vermont legislatures (14A-F7.3, 22A-G13.2) for a more efficient militia system. Numerous individuals like Aaron J. Booge (15A-G8.2) wanted more chaplains in the U.S. Army, a goal also sought by religious associations (16A-G11.2), 50A-H17.1, 53A-H20.1, 55A-H16.2), while aggrieved Jewish congregations asked for the repeal of legislation barring Jewish chaplains in the Union Army (37A-G8.4). Petitions called for the appointment of homeopathic surgeons in the Army (37A-G8.2, 55A-H16.3) and the creation of a chiropractic and a pharmacy corps (78A-H12.5, 78A-H12.10). Army doctors wanted the establishment of an ambulance and hospital corps (38A-G12.1), and the Samuel Hopkins Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Henderson, KY, asked for a "Women's Nursing Service" (55A-H16.4). In 1865, Union veterans from Clinton, NY, prayed for the perpetuation of the Veteran Reserve Corps (39A-H15.3).

**4.13** More specific proposals for expansion of the military establishment after 1907 include a prayer from the Automobile Club of Maryland for the creation of a volunteer motor corps as part of the State militia (60A-H23.12); resolutions of the Florida legislature praying for the establishment of Army aviation schools in Florida (69A-H12.1, 70A-H9.10); and petitions from the American Legion for a division in the War Department to administer the Officers' Reserve Corps, Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and Citizens' Military Training Camps (70A-H9.6).

**4.14** The subject of education in the Army figures prominently in the records. Many of the documents concern the administration and operation of the U.S. Military Academy. The select committees considered the request of Col. William Duane to have the Army adopt his textbook on the elements of military discipline as well as his *Military Dictionary* (12A-F6.1), while J. R. Rumville asked for similar consideration for his *Drummer's Instructor, or Martial Musician* (15A-G8.2). Other documents concerning the Academy include a report on an investigation of complaints of harsh discipline and official harassment of cadets (16A-G11.1); resolutions from the Connecticut legislature and from citizens groups in various States calling for the closing of the allegedly elitist and undemocratic Military Academy (28A-G13.1); and a proprosal to establish a German professorship at the Academy (37A-G8.17). Other records include petitions both for and against proposals to initiate rifle practice and military training in schools and colleges (60A-H23.10, 62A-H20.2) and to establish more advanced aviation schools (62A-H20.2, 64A-H16.4, 69A-H12.3, 70-H9.10, 76A-H16.2).

**4.15** Petitions and memorials involving military preparedness largely concern technological inventions and improvements of ordnance facilities, inland fortifications, and coastal defenses. Many petitions are pleas from American inventors who sought congressional approval of their inventions. During the 19th century, the committee was asked to consider the following inventions: an explosive mine for protecting ports, harbors, and navigable waters (13A-G7.1); a patented horse litter, pack saddle, and portable magazine, which was endorsed by Generals Winfield Scott and Henry Atkinson (24A-G11.1); an improved "Hand Grenade" (29A-G10.6); and other devices (14A-F7.1, 26A-G11.5, 28A-G13.6, 30A-G12.1, 32A-G12.3, 33A-G12.12, 34A-G11.3, 35A-G12.3). The petition promoting Dr. Solomon Andrews' "aerial ship" with inflatable cylinders includes a photograph of the machine (38A-G12.13). In 1904 the committee received C. Zeglen's proposals for the use of improved bulletproof cloth (58A-H16.2), and in 1939 John H. Smith of Texas asked the committee to recommend manufacture of his "Rigid Dirigible Airship" (76A-H16.2).

**4.16** The construction of military facilities throughout the United States, particularly before the Civil War, was also an important part of military preparedness. State legislatures, civic associations, and former Army personnel unceasingly and unsuccessfully called upon Congress to establish a western armory (19A-G11.1, 23A-G11.1, 25A-G11.2, 26A-G11.3, 28A-G13.3, 29A-G10.1, 33A-G12.4, 36A-G11.2, 37A-G8.8). The committee did report favorably on petitions and memorials concerning the Federal armory at Harpers Ferry, the status of the armory's employees, and efforts of the Winchester and Potomac Railroad to obtain a right-of-way through Harpers Ferry (20A-G11.1, 21A-G12.1, 22A-G11.3, 27A-G12.3).

**4.17** The committee also extended approval to the construction of seacoast forts, fortifications, and harbor defenses at Mobile, AL, and Pensacola, FL (18A-F10.1, 23A-G11.2, 29A-G10.3), and at New York City (17A-F9.2, 18A-F10.1). Proposals to build forts and posts to protect western frontiersmen and emigrants to California and Oregon, and to construct or improve roads to expedite the movement of troops and settlers westward also received committee consideration (27A-G12.2, 28A-G13.4, 29A-G10.3, 30A-G12.5, 35A-G12.6, 36A-G11.2, 37A-G8.7, 46A-G14.3, 55A-H16.4). In the 20th century, the Pennsylvania General Assembly called for improvements to the Frankford Arsenal at Philadelphia (63A-H19.4), and other organizations recommended improved aircraft defenses for the Pacific coast (76A-H16.6), and supported the expanded defense establishment proposed in President Franklin D. Roosevelt's military buildup plans (76A-H16.4). Numerous petitions also concern a controversy over postwar control of the Government-built World War I power and munitions plants at Muscle Shoals, AL (67A-H14.1, 68A-H13.2, 69A-H12.3, 70A-H9.5, 71A-12.1).

**4.18** Another aspect of military preparedness—universal military training and the selective service—became an important issue in the 20th century. The Selective Service Act became law on May 18, 1917, and the records include petitions favoring the draft as a preparedness measure from groups such as students from Princeton University, the American Peace and Arbitration League, and the American Legion (64A-H16.3, 65A-H11.3, 68A-H13.3, 70A-H9.9, 75A-H12.2). Those who opposed conscription included 245 citizens of Belmont County, OH; virtually all professors at the University of Florida; and the Mennonites (64A-H16.3, 65A-H11.3). Members of Mennonite congregations also prayed for exemption from the law on religious grounds (65A-H11.5). After World War I, the Bridgeport, CT post of the American Legion demanded that Congress permanently deny citizenship to all who had claimed exemption from military service in 1917 because they were aliens (67A-H14.3).

**4.19** The committee also had to consider petitions and memorials concerning the Burke-Wadsworth Bill of 1940 which became the Selective Training and Service Act of September 16, 1940: the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and civic groups supported the draft, but some chapters of labor organizations such as the United Office and Professional Workers of America and the United Automobile Workers of America opposed conscription prior to American involvement in World War II (76A-H16.3). A proposed system of peacetime universal military training after the war faced bitter opposition from various church, labor, and citizens' groups (78A-H12.12), but a new Selective Service Act became law in June 1948.

**4.20** Another large group of petitions and memorials pertains to the pay, promotion, and status of military personnel. Petitions about these subjects are among the records of most Congresses, including those of the 78th Congress (1943-44), which contain petitions calling for the promotion of American pris-

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oners of the Japanese in World War II (78A-H12.4). Some petitions concern the rank of officers and enlisted men (47A-H13.1, 55A-H16.1), while others involve proposed retirement laws for veterans (39A-H15.4, 47A-H13.3, 49A-H14.1); benefits for disabled veterans and civilian employees of the Army (60A-H23.7, 62A-H19.9, 64A-H16.2, 67A-H14.2, 70A-H9.3, 75A-H12.5); and the establishment and maintenance of an Army asylum and soldiers' homes (47A-H7.1, 47A-H13.4, 49A-H14.1). Researchers who are seeking information on the administration of the early 19th-century Army may find the document accompanying William Hobby's petition to be of interest. The disgruntled Hobby, a former clerk for the Army paymaster in Boston, MA, described his complaints in detail in his 1830 booklet, *Exposition of a Part of the Frauds, Corruptions, and Improprieties Committed in the Pay Department of the Army of the United States Since the Year 1816*, which he submitted with his petition (21A-G12.1).

**4.21** State temperance societies submitted petitions expressing opposition to the sale and consumption of liquor in the Army (26A-G11.4, 27A-G12.3, 29A-G10.8, 37A-G8.18, 55A-H16.4). The widespread opposition and protest to the operation of canteens on Army posts led to the submission of many petitions and memorials to the committee. Methodist and Presbyterian churches, the Anti-Saloon League, and various chapters of the Women's Christian Temperance Union supported the Spaulding or "anti-canteen" bill passed in 1901 as a means to destroy the "death-trap of Satan" or "Army Beer Saloon" (56A-H16.3, 57A-H17.1, 58A-H16.1). Other organizations such as the Spanish American Veterans Association and the National German American Alliance just as vigorously demanded the repeal of the law and their efforts eventually were rewarded (59A-H17.1, 60A-H23.9).

**4.22** Another subject that concerned the committee was the controversial use of the Army in labor disputes. Union-organized miners in Colorado demanded that President Theodore Roosevelt act to halt the use of State militia against them and to end their detention in "bull pens" (58A-H16.2), while citizens of Idaho's Coeur d'Alene Mining District asked the Secretary of War to allow Federal troops to remain in Osborne to end the "reign of terror" against the property interests there (56A-H16.4). Illinois socialists subsequently denounced Roosevelt's use of Federal troops in Nevada (60A-H23.12), and union workers in New York opposed a more Federally-controlled National Guard, considering it a potential weapon against strikes (62A-H20.3).

**4.23** Miscellaneous petitions and memorials include complaints from victimized military personnel about unfair practices of post sutlers (29A-G10.8, 37A-G8.15), and from Quakers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Indiana protesting the use of Cuban-bred bloodhounds against the Seminole Indians in the Florida War (26A-G11.2). Other miscellaneous items include demands from Indiana citizens that Confederate prisoners in Northern camps be shown the same "diabolical and hellish brutality" and "barbarous treatment" that Union prisoners received in Rebel stockades in the Civil War South (38A-G12.12); a claim for compensation for Lt. William T. Sherman, who performed special duty on the Pacific coast (31A-G11.2); and the prayer of California citizens for money to finance a military expedition against the Mojave Indians to rescue Lorenzo D. Oatman's captive sister who had become the wife of a Mojave chief (34A-G11.1).

**4.24** Miscellaneous petitions and memorials received by the committee during the 20th century are highly diverse. Most representative, however, are prayers of veterans of the Spanish-American War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the China Campaign (Boxer Rebellion) for special medals and badges (60A-H23.5); petitions from Gold Star Mothers of America for funds to enable them to visit the graves in France of their sons who died during World War I (68A-H13.1); and prayers of members of the American Bataan Club of Maywood, IL, for more substantial relief for American prisoners of war in Japan and on the Pacific islands (78A-H12.3). Another set of petitions and memorials include protests from citizens of San Diego and other California communities against the return of previously interned Japanese-Americans to their homes on the West Coast (78A-H12.8).

**4.25** The **committee papers** consist of reports on petitions, memorials, resolutions, bills, legal documents accompanying claims, and some correspondence between committee members and War Department officials, State governors, attorneys, and private claimants. After 1899 other types of documents are in the files. These include technical publications, bound transcripts of committee hearings, and legislative calendars. The committee papers are related directly to the petitions and memorials and pertain to the same

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subjects. Like the petitions, the pre-1822 documents referred to below are from select committees.

**4.26** Most of the committee papers relating to claims consist of committee reports on petitions, memorials, and resolutions from State Legislatures or private organizations. They cover claims of veterans for pensions, bounty lands, and compensation for services rendered, property lost, and injuries sustained in war. Widows of veterans, deceased servicemen or other military personnel sought pensions, annuities, or other relief. A typical early claims file is one for Pamela Adams, the widow of an Army officer who was killed in the Black Hawk War of 1832, which consists of a 2-page report on her petition (23A-D12.1). In sharp contrast is the substantial file relating to the claim of Anna Ella Carroll of Maryland who sought compensation for "military and other services" offered to the Union during the Civil War; she supported her claim with a copy of Sarah Ellen Blackwell's 1891 publication, *A Military Genius, Life of Anna Ella Carroll of Maryland* and several other documents (52A-F28.4). Also among these papers are claims pressed upon the War Department and Congress in 1854 by Mormon Governor Brigham Young, Utah Territory, for reimbursement of the Territorial government's expenses in suppressing Indian hostilities in the West—a claim rejected by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis (33A-D10.5). Also included is a subsequent and equally unsuccessful prayer of the Mormon Governor for indemnification for losses sustained during the U. S. Army's punitive expedition into Utah Territory (35A-D12.3).

**4.27** Some committee papers concern the complex subject of the organization of the military establishment. They include bills, resolutions, and proposals to increase the efficiency and improve the organization of the militia and the National Guard (13A-D8.1, 18A-C10.2, 22A-D16.2, 36A-D14.4, 63A-F26.1, 66A-F27.1) and reports on proposed reorganizations of the Army (56A-F23.1, 64A-F24.2, 70A-F23.1, 79A-F26.1). Among the papers are bills proposing a reorganization of the Topographical Engineer Corps (12A-C6.1, 33A-D12.2, 38A-E12.2, 40A-F15.5) and the Corps of Artificers (12A-C6.1); a merger of the Marine Corps with the Army Infantry and Artillery (21A-D15.2); the creation of a special corps of sappers, miners and pontoon builders (27A-D13.3); a reorganization of the Surgeon's and Ordnance Departments (30A-D13.2); and a reduction of the number of officers in the Army Medical Corps (53A-F27.2). There are also hearings and reports relating to the establishment of the U. S. Air Service as an independent branch of the Army (66A-F27.4). Records relating to sundry Army appropriation bills are included in the committee papers for several Congresses (64A-F24.1, 66A-F27.1, 74A-F26.1, 76A-F28.1).

**4.28** Also represented among the committee papers are records on education. Many of the early files concern the Military Academy, its academic program (22A-D16.2), and the need to improve its examination system (28A-D17.2, 38A-E12.4). The committee also considered the Academy's need for science professors (19A-D12.4, 44A-F20.3); a proposal to provide Academy educations for the sons of Army officers killed in the War of 1812 (14A-C7.1); a petition from graduating cadets praying that action be taken to secure them commissions (49A-F21.2); an investigation of allegations of congressional sales of cadet appointments (41A-F15.4), and a proposed Joint Resolution in 1910 calling for the special admission of Chinese students to the Academy (61A-F34.2). Some records pertain to discipline problems such as student infractions (20A-D13.4) and the dismissal of six cadets from the Academy in 1909 (61A-F34.2). Records of the 66th Congress include supporting documents for the Military Appropriations Bill in 1919 (66A-F27.1).

**4.29** Other records relating to education include messages in 1911 from President William H. Taft asking for authority to send military instructors to Chile and to compensate instructors in Cuba (62A-F26.2) and a proposal in 1917 to exempt medical students from the draft (65A-F21.1).

**4.30** The committee papers, like the petitions and memorials, contain records relating to technological inventions and the construction of more sophisticated military facilities. The papers include reports on such inventions as a "proposed floating battery" (12A-C6.1), a cannon-pointing device (24A-D13.1), an unsuccessful "propelling machine" intended as an improved version of the six-pounder cannon (25A-D15.2), a patented rifle (26A-D15.1), and a multicharge coastal artillery gun (48A-F21.6, 49A-F21.2). Also included are files on the contested patent claims of Robert P. Parrott and John B. Read for improved projectiles for rifled ordnance (54A-F26.1) and the testing of the Gathman Torpedo, which is documented by a printed report with photographs (57A-F23.1).

Proposals for new or improved military and veterans' facilities include files on armories and arsenals (69A-F30.3) and soldiers' homes (71A-F26.1). The construction of an armory for ordnance manufacture in the West engaged the committee's consideration throughout the antebellum period (12A-C6.1, 14A-C7.1, 19A-D12.1, 23A-D12.2, 28A-D17.10).

**4.31** The papers also include files on the construction of inland forts and posts for the defense of the Canadian, trans-Mississippi, and Southwest borders (21A-D12.2, 22A-D16.2, 23A-D12.2, 26A-D15.2, 27A-D13.2, 29A-D11.2, 33A-D10.6, 35A-D12.4, 40A-F15.2, 46A-F21.3) and the protection of westward bound settlers against Indians angered by the invasion of their homelands (24A-D13.2). The building of military roads west of the Appalachians also was a subject that constantly required the committee's attention given the importance of such roads to military operations and the westward movement of American settlers (19A-D12.5, 27A-D13.3, 33A-D10.11, 34A-D12.3, 35A-D12.4, 36A-D14.3, 51A-F23.1).

**4.32** Records relating to military justice and discipline often include copies of proceedings of courts of inquiry and courts-martial. Such records are available in files on mutinous Tennessee militiamen (20A-D13.2), the military superintendent of the armory at Harpers Ferry (20A-D13.4), officials and cadets at the Military Academy (16A-D14.1), a Civil War officer accused of slander and voyeurism (53A-F27.3), and army officers charged with whoremongering (50A-F23.1), among others.

**4.33** Of particular significance are the records concerning the case of Lt. Henry O. Flipper, the first black graduate of the Military Academy (Class of 1877). An 1882 court-martial dismissed Flipper for an alleged misappropriation of funds at Fort Davis, TX. Among the records are copies of Flipper's formal petition for restoration to rank and service and a 1898 brief of his case, a photograph of Flipper after his graduation from the Academy, testimonials supporting his reinstatement, letters from Flipper to members of the Committee on Military Affairs, and a favorable committee report on H.R. 9849—a bill that authorized the President to reinstate Flipper (56A-F23.3).

**4.34** Other records relating to discipline include disciplinary regulations proposed by Gen. Winfield Scott and those of the War Department (16A-D14.2, 42A-F17.2). There are also records on the trial and punishment of black soldiers involved in a riot at Houston, TX in 1917 (67A-F28.1).

**4.35** Papers on pay and promotions are extensive (19A-D12.6, 20A-D13.1, 22A-D16.1, 26A-D15.1, 33A-D10.2, 38A-E12.6). So too are the papers concerning rank (19A-D12.3, 42A-F17.1, 44A-F20.3), which include a file on Gen. Scott's unsuccessful demand for full rank and privileges based on his previous honorary appointment as a brevet major general (20A-D13.3). The papers also include files on the many proposed retirement pay laws introduced in Congress (37A-E10.1, 48A-F21.9).

**4.36** A great variety of other subjects are covered by the committee papers. Examples of these are: War Department contracts and accounts of purchases (45A-F21.1, 47A-F16.1); protests against the Army whiskey ration (21A-D15.2); the cost of liquor and other supplies sold by the post trader at Fort Buford, ND (43A-F17.3); desertions and resignations from the Army (22A-D16.2, 28A-D17.2); a monument to the Revolutionary War soldiers and sailors who perished aboard British prison ships, particularly the notorious Jersey (28A-D17.2); the liquidation of Fort Brown, TX (50A-F23.3, 52A-F28.2) and Fort Yuma, Arizona Territory (45A-F21.5, 48A-F21.1); and occupational deferments for Federal employees, 1943-45 (78A-F25.1).

**4.37** Other miscellaneous committee papers include correspondence and reports relating to Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson's execution of alleged spies Alexander Arbuthnot and Robert Ambrister during his invasion of Spanish Florida in 1818 (15A-D8.1); hearings on the depletion of domestic reserves of scrap iron and steel, the commissioning of bandmasters, and the adequacy of the United States national defense (76A-F28.1); and correspondence and transcripts of hearings documenting an investigation of irregularities involving the War Department's defense contracts with firms manufacturing armament during World War II (78A-F25.2).

**4.38** The **bill files** (97 ft.) form the bulk of the committee's 20th-century records. They consist of copies of printed bills and resolutions and committee hearings; correspondence between the chairmen and claimants or their legal representatives, the Secretary of War, and other War Department authorities; and collections of testimonials and legal documents supporting claims for relief. The files for each Congress are in two groups: the public bills are arranged numerically by bill or reservation number; the private bills are arranged alphabetically by name of person or by subject.

**4.39** Many of the bill files concern applications for relief from retired or disabled servicemen, veterans, widows, or dismissed military personnel. Among the files for the 59th Congress, 1905-7 (59A-D17), is a summary of the military service records of 84 officers from the Union volunteer forces prepared for H.R. 8989, which proposed a compilation of a "Volunteer Retired List" of former Civil War officers who would be entitled to receive an annuity from the Government. Related records are in the bill files for the 60th Congress (60A-D20) under H.R. 19250.

**4.40** The bill files cover many subjects. Among them is the status of blacks in the Army during the World War II period. In 1941 Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson reported unfavorably on H.R. 34 to establish a separate "colored combat unit" within the Michigan National Guard (77A-D24) because the War Department had plans to organize "additional colored combat units" as part of an effort "to establish a well balanced military force." In 1945, Stimson also reported unfavorably on H.R. 2708 proposed by black New York Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., to desegregate the Armed Forces (79A-D25).

**4.41** Bound reports, hearings, and other printed documents from the Military Affairs Committee are among the library collection of the Armed Services Committee (see paras. 4.119-4.121).

## Committee on the Militia, 1835-1911

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**4.42** Article I, section 8, of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power "to provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions," and to provide for "organizing, arming, and disciplining" the militia. The States retained the power to appoint the officers of the militia and the authority to train the militia according to the congressionally-mandated regimen of discipline. The Constitution (Article II, section 2), designated the President of the United States as the Commander-in-Chief of the aggregate militia forces of the States when they were called upon to support the Regular Army and Navy.

**4.43** On May 8, 1792, Congress passed the Militia Act authorizing the States to enroll and organize for military service all able-bodied free white citizens between the ages of 18 and 45. The War of 1812 exposed serious deficiencies in the performance of the militia forces, and in 1815, Richard H. Wilde of Georgia proposed that a standing Committee on the Militia be established.[2] The House rejected his proposal and continued to use select committees to deal with militia affairs on an ad hoc basis for the next 20 years.

**4.44** The standing Committee on the Militia was created on December 10, 1815, with jurisdiction over miscellaneous aspects of the militia organization and operation in the several States and the District of Columbia. The Committee's jurisdiction included fostering greater efficiency in the militia units, encouraging rifle practice, reorganizing the militia, and issuing armaments to the militia units and later to the National Guard or voluntary militia units that replaced them.

**4.45** The committee was not terminated until 1911 although it had exercised little influence after the passage of the Dick Military Act of January 31, 1903. That law, combined with other concurrent military reforms, integrated the National Guard organizations in the States with the Regular Army, largely eliminating the need for direct congressional supervision of the implementation of the now obsolete 1792 militia law. After 1911, the House Military Affairs committee assumed the functions and powers that had formerly been in the jurisdiction of the Militia Committee.

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[2] *Annals of the Congress of the United States*, 14th Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 7, 1815, p. 380.

### *Records of the Committee on the Militia, 24th-67th Congresses (1835-1911)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 9 vols. | 1877-79, 1885-87<br>1889-93, 1895-1901<br>1907-11 | 45th, 49th<br>51st-52d, 54th-56th<br>60-61st |
| Docket Books | 11 vols. | 1865-71, 1875-81<br>1885-87, 1889-93<br>1895-1901, 1907-11 | 39th-41st, 44th-46th<br>49th, 51st-52d<br>54th-56th, 60th-61st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 8 in. | 1831-33, 1839-43<br>1845-47, 1853-55<br>1857-59, 1877-79<br>1893-1901, 1907-11 | 22d, 26th-27th<br>29th, 32d<br>35th, 45th-49th<br>53d-56th, 60th-61st |
| Comm. Papers | 11 in. | 1819-21, 1825-27<br>1837-41, 1943-47<br>1865-71, 1875-81<br>1883-87, 1889-1901<br>1907-11 | 16th, 19th<br>25th-26th, 28th-29th<br>39th-41st, 44th-46th<br>48th-49th, 51st-56th<br>60th-61st |
| Bill Files | 2 in. | 1903-5, 1907-9 | 58th, 60th |

TOTAL: 2 ft. and 20 vols. (1 ft.)

**4.46** This committee did not produce an extensive collection of records, primarily because of its limited jurisdiction and the continuing validity of the 1792 Militia Act—a law which underwent only minor revisions from its passage until 1903. The **minute books** contain the proceedings of a relatively small number of the committee meetings during the Congresses that convened in the 1880's and 1890's because the committee had trouble forming quorums. The committee clerk in 1886 noted, for example, that the absenteeism of committee members contributed to "a dismal failure" at a scheduled meeting. A few of the books contain copies of committee hearings, proposed bills, and newspaper editorials concerning the committee's work. The **docket books** are also quite incomplete; they give the name of the bill or petition, the action taken, and occasional remarks on legislation.

**4.47** **Petitions and memorials** comprise a large part of the extant records of the committee. They demonstrate the widespread and continuing interest of the committee members, State politicians, members of local military organizations, and concerned citizens in maintaining a strong State militia system to obviate the establishment of a large, standing Regular Army.

**4.48** The bulk of the petitions, however, deals with the subject of revising the 1792 Militia Act to improve the organization, training, and equipping of the State militia forces. To many, a particularly objectionable feature of the 1792 law was its provision to enroll all able-bodied citizens between the ages of 18 and 45. Memorialists frequently called for a change in the law. A Connecticut State Militia officers' committee in January 1832 demanded a reduction in the prescribed period of enrollment, pointing out: "The call upon Minors is resented by the avarice of parents and Masters, and the last few years, of the present period of service, is irksome to those, who are military subjects" (22A-G14.1). Another memorial from the 1832 Pennsylvania Military Convention denounced the "burthensome and inefficient" military system created by the 1792 act.

**4.49** For the rest of the 19th century, petitions continued to emphasize the need to improve the militia in order to increase the effectiveness of "Citizens-Soldiers" as opposed to "slave mercenary soldiers," as one Vermont State Militia delegation put the matter in 1839 (25A-G12.1). Miscellaneous petitions submitted to the committee include requests from Harper & Brothers, Publishers, of New York, and from a Philadelphia bookseller, to secure a Government contract to publish and issue to the militia copies of Gen. Winfield S. Scott's book, *Infantry Tactics* (26A-G12.1); prayers from State militia organizations for Government assistance in procuring military equipment and stores (26A-G12.1, 46A-H15.2); and petitions seeking recognition and appropriations for National Guard units (46A-H15.1, 54A-H21.1, 60A-H24.1). In 1881, the National Guard Association of the United States submitted a petition pointing out the absurdity of continued support for the obsolete 1792 militia law which, if enforced, would produce a militia of nearly 7 million men. The Association urged recognition of the volunteer militia organizations comprising the National Guard as the Nation's only militia force (47A-H14.1).

**4.50** **Committee papers** consist mainly of copies of bills, reports, and other documents relating to the committee's jurisdiction as well as resolutions submitted to the committee from State legislatures and military organizations. Also, among the committee papers are scattered files of correspondence among committee members, War Department officials, militia officers, and public servants and private individuals in the States. These include an exchange of letters between various committee members and Samuel Colt, the inventor, concerning the committee's favorable consideration of Colt's waterproof cartridges and its subsequent recommendation of their use (28A-D18.1). Other subjects raised in the correspondence include the settlement of pay claims of Mississippi militia officers (29A-D12.1), the proposed 1867 national militia bill (39A-F16.1), and the 1911 pay bill (61A-F35.1). The committee papers also contain abstracts of the militia force, prepared and submitted to Congress by the Secretary of War, 1875-95 (44A-F21.1, 45A-F22.1, 49A-F22.1, 53A-F28.1). Available, as well, are resolutions from State legislatures—including Vermont, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Illinois—and militia organizations calling upon various State representations in Congress to support passage of bills to improve militia organization (22A-G14.1).

**4.51** The relatively few **bill files** among the committee records include copies of bills providing for the establishment of public rifle ranges across the United States, the establishment and discipline of the District of Columbia militia (58A-D19), and an amendment to the Dick Act of 1903 (60A-D21). Copies of the proceedings of published hearings relating to the Dick Act, featuring testimony by representatives of the National Guard Association, are interspersed throughout the file.

## Committee on Naval Affairs, 1822-1946

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**4.52** The Constitution of the United States grants Congress the power to provide and maintain a Navy and designates the President as its commander-in-chief. Select committees were appointed in the House to consider legislation pertaining to naval affairs during every Congress from 1809 until 1822 when the standing Committee on Naval Affairs was created. The jurisdiction of the committee, which remained unchanged for more than 60 years was as follows:

> It shall be the duty of the Committee on Naval Affairs to take into its consideration all matters which concern the naval establishment, and which shall be referred to them by the House, and to report their opinion thereupon; and also to report, from time to time, such measures as may contribute to the economy and accountability of the said establishment.[3]

**4.53** In 1885 a House Rule change amended the committee's jurisdiction to cover all legislation relating to the Naval Establishment, including the naval appropriations bills. A 1920 change in House rules removed the jurisdiction over appropriations from the committee and returned it to the Appropriations Committee. The Naval Affairs Committee's jurisdiction then included the following: "the naval establishment, including increase or reduction of commissioned officers and enlisted men and their pay and allowances and the increase of ships or vessels of all classes of the Navy."[4]

**4.54** During the 20th century, the jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to include naval and marine aeronautics; the construction of aircraft carriers for the Navy; the acquisition of sites for naval facilities, and the establishment, construction, improvement, and maintenance of such facilities; the authorization of special decorations, orders, medals, and other insignia for naval personnel, and the acceptance of offices and emoluments from foreign governments; claims of personnel and civilian employees of the Navy; and legislation relating to the Coast Guard, the Marine Corps, the Marine Band, the Fleet Marine Corps Reserve, the Naval Observatory, and the Coast and Geodetic Survey (in part).

**4.55** The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction incorporated into that of the Armed Services Committee created under the 1946 act.

### *Records of the Committee on Naval Affairs, 17th-79th Congresses (1822-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 23 vols. | 1863-83, 1887-91<br>1897-1917, 1925-29 | 38th-47th, 50th-51st<br>55th-64th, 69th-70th |
| Docket Books | 1 vol. | 1932-35 | 72d-74th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 13 ft. | 1809-1936, 1939-46 | 11th-74th, 76th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 21 ft. | 1809-1925, 1927-33<br>1939-46 | 11th-68th, 70th-72d<br>76th-79th |
| Bill Files | 28 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 62 ft. and 24 vols. (3 ft.) | | |

**4.56** The **minute books** record the attendance of members and witnesses at committee meetings; describe the proceedings of hearings, debates, and discussions; and document votes on bills and resolutions. After 1900, most of the entries in the minute books are typewritten. In addition to providing the information given above, the 20th-century minute books record reports and petitions and memorials that the committee considered. The minute books for the period before 1899 provide the dates of meetings and individual or House resolution numbers where assigned, information that usually was recorded in docket books. Most of the minute books were transferred to the Armed Services Committee, and those volumes have been retired as part of the Armed Services Committee's Library Collection (see para. 4.119).

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[3] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*. 31st Cong., 1st sess., p. 1612.

[4] Clarence Cannon, *Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1935), vol. 7, p. 781.

**4.57** There are no extant **docket books** for any Naval Affairs Committee from 1822 to 1899. Only one docket book has been preserved for the 20th century. A thin volume covering the period between 1932 and 1935, it records the dates and times of regularly scheduled meetings of the committee, notes the members present, the assigned number of each bill, the name of the bill's proponent, and a summary of the bill's content. Occasionally, remarks were recorded concerning particular bills or the committee's actions on them.

**4.58** The **petitions and memorials** either express public and private demands for congressional intervention in various areas of naval affairs or constitute prayers of individuals or groups seeking some special dispensation of congressional relief. Before 1899, claims form the largest single group of petitions and memorials. After 1899, many claims are in bill files. The petitions and memorials submitted or referred to the committee in the 20th century reflect significant changes in the interests of petitioners who were increasingly concerned with the economics of administering the Nation's growing Naval Establishment and the controversial aspects of American expansion abroad.

**4.59** Some of the documents referred to in the discussion that follows are dated prior to the establishment of the standing Committee on Naval Affairs in 1822. Those petitions and memorials were received by various select committees on military affairs.

**4.60** Among the claims petitions are numerous requests of Navy veterans and seamen seeking compensation for services rendered or injuries sustained in the performance of duty. For example, Surgeon Joseph G. Roberts prayed for prize money comparable to the shares awarded by Congress to Commodore Oliver H. Perry and his men for the capture of the British fleet in Lake Erie in 1813. Because Perry had put him in charge of the military hospital at Erie, PA, Roberts was not aboard ship at the time of the battle and did not qualify for the award (13A-G8.1). James Turnbull, a seaman on a privately armed vessel, the *Elbridge Gerry*, sought financial relief from Congress because while he was a prisoner in England during the War of 1812, he had been wantonly shot by a "musket ball in his left arm, which broke the bone and rendered an immediate amputation above the elbow necessary" (14A-F8.1). Veterans of the Union Navy presented petitions on their own behalf for services performed and sacrifices made during the Civil War. The officers and crew of U.S.S. *Kearsarge* asked for $192,000 for the destruction of the Confederate warship *Alabama* in 1864 (39A-H17.1).

**4.61** Other petitions and memorials relate to claims of naval veterans seeking compensation for loss of personal property. Dr. Grenville M. Weeks, Assistant Surgeon aboard the ill-fated Union Navy ironclad warship *Monitor*, sought compensation for the loss of his medical books and personal belongings when the *Monitor* sank in stormy waters off Cape Hatteras, NC, in 1862. He asked for additional relief for injuries to his right hand and arm, "the first by being crushed, the latter by being wrenched from its socket," sustained when he attempted to evacuate himself and save others from the doomed ship (37A-G9.2).

**4.62** Claims from veterans for pensions and from widows or close relatives of deceased veterans for financial relief constitute a considerable part of the petitions and memorials. They are found consistently in the records of the 11th through the 55th Congresses (1809-99), particularly after 1862, when Congress passed a bill granting lifetime pensions to all naval personnel disabled in the line of duty. Not all awards for military service went to members of the Armed Forces of the United States, however. In 1855, a law was passed granting 5-years pay to surviving officers who had been serving in the Texas Navy when Texas was annexed by the United States in 1845. Mrs. Sarah Brasher of Maryland cited this law when she sought the payment due her deceased son who had been a captain in the Texas Navy (35A-G14.2).

**4.63** Another significant group of petitions and memorials documents the committee's responsibility for reviewing cases of naval courts-martial and making recommendations to the Secretary of the Navy and the President concerning the service status of officers and seamen who had been suspended from duty or cashiered. A midshipman cashiered for drunkenness and insubordination (21A-G14.2) and a lieutenant found guilty of "un-officer-like conduct" (34A-G12.2) are examples of naval personnel who appealed to the committee for redress. In 1932, the committee was asked to consider the case of a Navy officer in Hawaii who killed his wife's alleged rapist, a reprisal committed because the officer was convinced that the law enforcement measures taken by the civilian and military authorities were inadequate. Petitions sent to President Herbert Hoover by religious and civic groups from the officer's hometown in Kentucky and later referred to Congress and the Committee on Naval Affairs, demanded that the officer be released from custody and restored to duty (72A-H11.1).

**4.64** Interest in technological advances in nautical science and engineering accounted for substantial numbers of petitions and memorials, particularly during the mid-19th century (31A-G12.4, 33A-G14.8, 36A-G12.2). Most petitioners sought contracts for the official adoption, mass production, and use or deployment of their contrivances or machines. James D. Woodside, for example, applied in 1827 for funds to test and produce his "Ship-Gauge" instrument for navigation (20A-G13.20). Other memorialists prayed for the adoption of a newly-designed steamboat (33A-G14.8); a rifle cannon (34A-G12.3); a ship timber bending apparatus (35A-G14.4); a bolt extractor, an improved lifeboat, and a brown sugar-making machine (36A-G12.1); and a battering ram (54A-H23.4). Some aggrieved inventors petitioned Congress demanding restitution for violation of patents (18A-F11.1, 19A-G13.2). As late as 1909, a petitioner requested that Congress take steps to recognize Theodore R. Timby as the inventor of the type of revolving turret used on the *Monitor* and other ironclad vessels (61A-H25.5).

**4.65** The fervor and dedication of the great social reform crusades of the 19th century, especially in the antebellum era, are reflected in the petitions and memorials. State temperance societies insistently prayed for the repeal of the law that sanctioned the issue of the "spirit ration" to sailors—a protracted campaign of protest that ultimately resulted in congressional abrogation of the law in 1862 (26A-G13.3, 28A-G14.1, 30A-G13.3, 31A-G12.5, 32A-G13.5). Humanitarian groups meanwhile demanded an end to corporal punishment, particularly flogging, this effort culminating in legislative victory when Congress abolished the abusive practice in 1850 (27A-G14.3, 30A-G13.1, 31A-G12.2, 32A-G13.2). Before the Civil War, the Speaker of the House referred to the committee petitions from antislavery societies in the northern States. Among these were pleas for Congress to assist in establishing and maintaining a steamship line to Liberia, thus promoting the colonization of that newly-founded African republic by manumitted southern slaves and free northern blacks (31A-G12.7).

**4.66** The institutional development of the Naval Establishment through education was a major interest of the American people and the Committee on Naval Affairs. Numerous petitions concern improvements in naval education and proposals for the establishment of naval schools. Petitioners, for example, suggested that improved squadron communications would prevent collisions at sea and recommended the establishment of a board of examiners on marine signals; a copy of William H. Ward's 1858 manual *Ward's Code of Signal Telegraph* was submitted to bolster the proposal (35A-G14.1). Other petitioners wrote concerning the salaries of professors at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD (38A-G13.5, 45A-H19.4, 53A-H23.1), and the renovation and management of the U. S. Naval Observatory at Washington, DC (45A-H15.1, 47A-H15.1, 52A-H16.1). The 1879 Louisiana Constitutional Convention proposed the establishment of a naval and marine school at New Orleans (46A-H16.1); Pacific coast civic groups prayed in 1916 and 1919 for a naval academy and aviation school at some west coast port to complement the Naval Academy (64A-H18.4, 66A-H14.1); National Guard organizations and State legislatures proposed that the Government establish torpedo schools and submarine and aviation training stations on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the Great Lakes (58A-H17.2, 60A-H26.4, 66A-H14.2, 69A-H13.1) to provide education on new naval weapons systems. In 1920 the Board of Aldermen and other officials of Newport, RI, protested the proposed removal of the Naval War College to Washington, DC (66A-H14.8), and in 1926, the Chicago City Council asked that the Naval Academy be removed from Annapolis to a location on Lake Michigan (69A-H13.6).

**4.67** Other petitions focused on the construction, maintenance, repair, and improvement of strategic naval facilities such as navy yards and drydocks, matters of considerable concern because they affected naval preparedness and had an important economic impact on the American work force. Petitioners representing the commercial and economic interests of large cities on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and on the shores of the Great Lakes constantly asked the committee to award building contracts to local firms, trade associations, or public works agencies. For example, the Philadelphia Board of Trade wanted drydock work for local citizens (25A-G13.2), while the municipal government of Brooklyn prayed for a contract to construct a drydock in New York harbor (26A-G13.2). The local demands for naval construction work continued unabated, and most Congresses before 1920 responded to these petitions by appropriating funds for the improvement of naval facilities such as yards and drydocks (57A-H19.3, 60A-H26.6, 63A-H21.8, 64A-H18.3, 76A-H18.1), as well as ships (56A-H19.1, 59A-H18.1, 63A-H21.2, 71A-H13.2), and ordnance (57A-H19.2, 58A-H17.3, 59A-H18.2).

**4.68** From the early 1900's, union-organized navy yard workers and privately employed artisans competed for contract work on naval construction projects such as shipbuilding. Memorials from sympathetic State legislatures, fraternal organizations, civic groups, trade federations, and naval veteran associations regularly prayed for committee assistance in ensuring that the Government grant contract work to navy yard employees, particularly those affiliated with labor organizations, and not to private or independent nonunion or antiunion groups (57A-H19.1, 2, 63A-H21.1, 66A-H14.8, 68A-H14.2, 69A-H13.3, 71A-H13.2, 73A-H15.1). New Orleans laborers, for example, demanded that Congress require that the Department of the Navy hire only union laborers (57A-H19.4), while other groups sought higher pay based on fairer systems of seniority and skill measurement (63A-H2.1, 64A-H18.2, 77A-H14.4). Ironically, a bill proposed in 1941 by Committee Chairman Carl Vinson to expedite the naval construction program by providing for the investigation and mediation of navy yard labor disputes aroused bitter and widespread opposition. The United Mine Workers (UMW), the Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO), and the Park City Ladies Auxiliary of Utah were just three of the groups that denounced the Vinson bill, which was characterized by the St. Louis Newspaper Guild as the "work of anti-labor forces," because it violated the collective bargaining provisions of the Wagner Act of 1935 (77A-H14.5).

**4.69** Petitioners also sought the participation of the Navy in endeavors that would expand geographic knowledge or improve communication. In 1843, for example, John Wise of Lancaster, PA, urged the committee to appropriate funds to permit the Navy to conduct an aerial circumnavigation of the earth in his "Aerostatic machine," a balloon with a seaworthy gondola (28A-G14.2). Delegates from 15 States who met in Memphis, TN, in 1849 called for the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific coast and the construction of either an interoceanic ship canal or railroad across Central America (31A-G12.8). In 1850, Henry Grinnell, the New York merchant and philanthropist, suggested that the Navy could gain valuable knowledge of the Arctic if 30 Navy seamen were assigned to his expedition to search for Sir John Franklin and his party (31A-G12.8), who had disappeared while searching for the Northwest Passage.

**4.70** Many of the petitions and memorials concern naval personnel matters and recommended changes in the organization of the Department of the Navy. Officers and enlisted men petitioned for increased pay and regular promotions (36A-G12.3, 37A-G9.1, 38A-G13.2), while other petitioners urged Congress to set higher rank for Navy medical officers, to establish a more equitable system of ranking officers and enlisted men, and to improve discipline and efficiency in the Navy (25A-G14.8, 29A-G12.5, 38A-G13.3, 48A-H19.30). Petitioners also advocated a more efficient clerical corps in the Navy (55A-H19.20), the upgrading of medical services, and the improvement of standards of professional practice within the Medical and Surgical Bureaus (40A-H12.1); others recommended a fundamental reorganization of the Medical Corps (38A-G13.8) and suggested the transfer of the Revenue Cutter Service from the Treasury Department to the Navy Department (52A-H16.3). From the 1890's onward, the committee received requests to create Naval and Marine Corps reserve units (51A-H15.1, 54A-H23.1, 56A-H19.2, 60A-H26.2). After Congress established the Naval Reserve Force and the Marine Reserve Force in 1916, petitioners turned their attention to the maintenance of the units (68A-H14.3, 71A-H13.3). The reserves were reorganized in 1925 and again in 1938.

**4.71** Throughout the 19th century the United States remained basically a continental power, and strategic theory and planning regarding wartime use of the Navy did not fully evolve until after the acquisition of overseas possessions following the Spanish-American War of 1898. Nevertheless, the American public recognized the necessity for the improvement of the Nation's coastal and maritime defenses. For example, petitions, including some from legislatures in the States bordering the Great Lakes, called for the construction of naval depots, stations, and vessels on Lake Erie and Lake Michigan in the mid-1860's (38A-G13.8, 39A-H17.1); the Philadelphia Board of Trade urged the development of improved seacoast defenses in the late 1880's (49A-H19.4); and various chambers of commerce in California, Oregon, and Washington asked for the deployment of torpedo vessels to guard the Pacific coast against hostile attack in the mid-1890's (53A-H23.1).

**4.72** The petitions and memorials submitted or referred to the committee after 1900 reflect significantly different concerns than those expressed in the requests received in the 19th century. The acquisition of overseas territories led to increased public and private concern over the administration of the United States Naval Establishment and naval operations after 1898.

**4.73** Isolationist and pacifist groups who opposed overseas expansion demanded a reduction in American naval armaments and an end to what they perceived to be United States militarism. President Theodore Roosevelt's shipbuilding program, started in the early 1900's, provoked intense opposition among large well-organized groups of educators, clergymen, and other citizens. In 1908, for example, the name of U. S. Steel baron Andrew Carnegie headed a list of nearly 400 citizens of New York City who submitted a petition to the committee denouncing Roosevelt's proposed $60,000,000 naval construction program (60A-H26.10). Form petitions signed by hundreds of theological students, Pennsylvania Quakers, political liberals, constitutional advocates, and dedicated peace groups continued to decry naval expansion in succeeding years (61A-H25.3, 62A-H22.1, 63A-H21.1).

**4.74** Peace groups insisted that Congress observe the limits on naval armaments established by agreements negotiated at various international conferences. Such demands began before World War I, but naval treaties concluded at Washington, DC and London, England, in 1922, and 1930 respectively, and the Geneva Conference of 1932 elicited the bulk of the petitions (63A-H21.12, 67A-H16.2, 71A-H13.1). In 1934, several national religious organizations, particularly the Council of the Churches of Christ, unsuccessfully opposed the passage of the Vinson-Trammel bill that authorized a 5-year building and replacement program of more than 100 ships. In 1935, fleet exercises in the western Pacific prompted protests from church groups in Kentucky, New Jersey, and New York, that considered the maneuvers to be threats to world peace since they might provoke Japan (74A-H12.2). Naval participation in the proposed atomic bomb testing in the Pacific in 1946 prompted opposition from church members in Allen, TX (79A-H14.1).

**4.75** Opposed to the isolationists and pacifists were the advocates of naval expansion and preparedness. Their more chauvinistic orientation is equally well represented in the petitions and memorials directed to the committee after 1898. The supposed threat posed by Japanese militarism in the early 1900's led to calls upon the committee to pass bills improving the naval base at Pearl Harbor on the island of Oahu, HI (60A-H26.9). Meanwhile, private organizations such as the National Business League, the Spanish-American War Veterans, the American Legion, the Navy League, the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and various labor associations advocated a substantial United States naval buildup on a two-ocean front (60A-H26.1, 63A-H21.2, 64A-H18.6, 69A-H13.2). Those groups also urged the committee to ensure that the United States achieve its full naval strength as defined by the ship construction limitations imposed by the treaties of 1922 and 1930 (68A-H14.1, 71A-H.13). Protection of the Pacific coast also was a critical issue among defense-minded advocates of naval preparedness, as numerous petitions and memorials demonstrate (60A-H26.7, 63A-H21.9, 65A-H13.4, 67A-H16.1, 73A-H15.5, 76A-H18.2).

**4.76** In addition to the subjects already discussed, the committee received petitions and memorials on many other topics. During the early years of the Republic, piracy was an important issue to reform-minded Americans who considered ineffective an 1819 act that had authorized Navy vessels to convoy American merchant ships on the high seas. Some of the petitions on this subject proposed bold plans to combat maritime plundering in the Caribbean or to punish Chinese pirates in distant Asian waters (18A-F11.2, 34A-G12.3). Various charitable groups petitioned the committee to use Navy vessels to transport food to Ireland during the severe "Potato Famine" years of the 1840's (29A-G12.4), while Christian missionaries in India and the United States pleaded for similar naval assistance in shipping grain to famine-stricken South Asia in 1897 (55A-H19.3). In 1910 the Illinois Society Sons of the American Revolution petitioned for the funds necessary to complete and furnish the crypt of the chapel at the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, as a permanent resting place for the body of John Paul Jones (61A-H25.5).

**4.77** Other petitions and memorials relate to historic ships. Among these are petitions concerning the following: The preservation of the frigate *Constitution*, 1913-36 (63A-H21.5, 73A-H15.2, 74A-H12.1) and of Admiral David G. Farragut's flagship *Hartford*, 1919 (66A-H14.5); a controversy over a permanent port for the *Constellation*, 1935-42 (74A-H12.1, 76A-H18.3, 77A-H14.1); and the raising of the *Maine* from Havana harbor so the bodies of the crew members still aboard the ship could be properly interred (61A-H25.4, 62A-H22.4).

**4.78** The **committee papers** consist largely of copies of committee reports on petitions, memorials, and proposed House bills; correspondence between chairmen and constituents from various congressional districts, Navy Department officials, and State political figures; affidavits and testimonials supporting claims; reports from the Secretary of the Navy; statistical reports and financial statements; copies of proceedings of Navy Department courts-martial; legislative calendars; and some original maps, charts, and plans and diagrams of ships in different stages of design and construction. Some of the reports are printed in the *Congressional Serial Set*.

**4.79** For much of the early 19th century, naval personnel and owners and captains of privately owned armed vessels, or privateers, sought bounties or prize money for enemy vessels captured during the War of 1812. Some of the committee papers document their claims (13A-D9.1, 16A-D16.1, 22A-D17.1). Privateering was abolished in 1856 by the Declaration of Paris, but, during the Civil War, Union blockaders were granted monetary awards (47A-F17.2). The use of prize money as an incentive was abolished by Congress in 1899.

**4.80** Interspersed among the committee papers are documents submitted by naval officers and enlisted men who sought restoration to duty or a correction of their service record through the intervention of the committee with the Secretary of the Navy or the President. Among these are papers concerning a Commander who was tried for drunkenness on duty during the blockade of Charleston Harbor in 1863 (39A-F17.4, 40A-F17.5), and a captain who was cashiered for being absent without leave from his pestilence-ridden Florida post (48A-F23.11). Some courtroom testimony may be found in the files for many of these cases.

**4.81** A substantial portion of the 19th-century documents complement and support the claims that prompted the petitions and memorials from veterans or their heirs. One example is a copy of the committee's favorable report (17A-C17.1) on an 1823 petition for financial aid (17A-F10.1) from Sarah Perry, the mother of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry who had died in 1819. Documents concerning an 1846 report on a claim from the heirs of John Paul Jones, the Revolutionary War hero who died in Paris in 1792, include excerpts from the correspondence of Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson (29A-D13.2). Typical of documents concerning claims for injuries sustained in war is one maimed sailor's prayer for relief and an accompanying committee report concerning his eligibility for a pension (22A-D17.1). The committee also reported on claims for losses of personal property under hostile or wartime conditions (16A-D16.2, 32A-D11.1). An 1863 letter from Gideon Welles, the Secretary of the Navy, concerned compensation for clothing lost by Union sailors who had been forced to evacuate the U.S.S. *Cairo* (37A-E11.4). Representative of papers concerning awards for extraordinary services rendered to the Navy is an 1858 report recommending additional compensation for Eliphalet Brown, Jr., a daguerreotypist employed as an artist on Commodore Matthew C. Perry's expedition to Japan, (35A-D13.1). The officers and crew of the Union ironclad *Monitor* were recommended for recognition for their participation in the battle with the Confederate ironclad, *Merrimac* (48A-F23.13).

**4.82** The committee's concern with scientific advances in nautical and marine technology is amply illustrated by the committee papers. Typical of the inventions discussed in the records are Edward Clark's "projected floating battery" (12A-C7.2); Mrs. Sarah P. Mathers' submarine telescope (24A-D19.1); and John Ericsson's prototype battleship "Destroyer," which was armed with "submarine artillery" (48A-F23.8, 49A-F24.3). Also mentioned in the papers are other inventions, such as the following: A European-designed ship's anchor (18A-C11.2); armed steamers (27A-D14.1); life-saving equipment for American vessels (33A-D11.2, 48A-F23.9); and "Submarine Torpedo Boats" (58A-F25.1). The papers relating to some of these inventions include detailed reports providing illustrations and specifications.

**4.83** The committee also heard from inventors who sought recognition for their contributions or redress for alleged infringements of their patented designs. Papers for the 29th Congress (1845-47), for example, include letters, testimonials, and other documents supporting a request from John Ericsson for recognition of his work in designing and constructing the *Princeton* and a claim from the heirs of Robert Fulton, designer of the steamboat, the *Clermont*, for services Fulton had performed for the Navy (29A-D13.2). Other records concern demands for compensation for the Navy's alleged use of patented designs for Captain Henry R. Shreve's snagboat to clear debris from rivers (33A-D11.1) and Charles Olcott's heavily armor-plated iron boat (34A-D13.1).

**4.84** Committee papers also include records concerning the construction, maintenance, repair, and expansion of physical facilities. Documents relating to yards and depots, drydocks and stations, and shipbuilding projects are found for many Congresses from the 11th to the 55th (1809-99). Also included are records concerning improvements to coastal defenses on the Great Lakes, the "maritime frontier" (12A-C7.2), the east coast (16A-D16.2), the Pacific Northwest coast (34A-D13.2), and vulnerable harbors (48A-F23.9, 49A-F24.3). As early as 1899, the committee recognized the strategic value of improving the position of the Marine Corps in the Philippines and it recommended that the House vote to increase funds for new defensive fortifications and an extension of the Pacific cable, particularly that portion between Hawaii and the Philippines (56A-F26.8). Detailed maps showing the naval features of San Juan Harbor, Puerto Rico, are included among the committee papers (57A-F25.1), and one file includes a committee-originated bill that favored the purchase of additional land adjacent to the American naval hospital at Yokohama, Japan (58A-25.2).

**4.85** Personnel matters are extensively represented in the committee papers. Among the records are bills, printed reports on petitions, and correspondence exchanged between the Secretary of the Navy and committee members concerning the following: pay and promotion, including that for female nurses (36A-D15.3, 50A-F25.2, 55A-F26.6); discipline (21A-D17.4, 24A-D14.2, 25A-D16.3); efficiency and ranking (15A-D9.1, 38A-E13.10, 51A-F26.4); and pension and retirement funds (20A-D15.3, 21A-D17.3, 23A-D13.2, 38A-E13.9). Committee members considered and reported on bills authorizing an increase in the number of officers in the Marine Corps (60A-F38.3) and the number of Navy chaplains, a measure supported by the Women's Christian Temperance Union as a means of curbing the abuse of liquor by enlisted men (63A-F28.1). For the most part, however, personnel-related records are relatively sparse among the committee papers during the 20th century because most documents concerning pay, promotion, and status are among the substantially expanded bill files after 1915.

**4.86** A broad range of miscellaneous subjects characterize the committee papers in the 1800's. Among these diverse records are statements of the aggregate naval forces of the United States and Tripoli (16A-D16.2) and the United States and Spain (44A-F23.1); reports on the exploits of naval commanders during the War of 1812 (12A-C7.1); and papers on the filibustering operations of William Walker in Central America (35A-D13.34), steamer communications with China and Hawaii (30A-D14.4, 31A-D13.1), and exploration of the Arctic and South Seas (20A-D15.2, 48A-F23.6, 48A-F23.7, 48A-F23.14).

**4.87** Other subjects covered include education, the Naval Academy and the Naval Observatory, expansion of the naval aviation program, organizational changes in the Navy Department, and appropriations.

**4.88** Bill files comprise over half of the total volume of committee records for the 20th century. They consist of printed copies of bills or other legislation accompanied by related documents, such as messages from the President; correspondence with officials of the executive agencies, and applicants for pensions or other relief; and testimonials supporting claims. Claims for relief, or private bills, are abundant, most of them concerning either applications for pensions or pleas from naval personnel seeking correction of service records, reinstatement, or restoration to duty. For most Congresses the private bills and the public bills—those relating to naval administrative matters, equipment, and facilities—are interfiled and arranged by type of legislation, thereunder by bill or resolution number. For a few Congresses the private and public bills are filed in separate groups and arranged numerically within each group. Researchers can locate appropriate bill numbers by using the index to the *Congressional Record* for each Congress.

**4.89** The bill files cover the full range of subjects within the committee's jurisdiction. For example, those for the 64th Congress include files for H.R. 10752, a proposal to build a naval base at Astoria, OR, and H.Res. 354, a recommendation that ships stationed in the Atlantic submit battleship target scores for congressional inspection (64A-D16). A file for the 79th Congress concerns H.R. 3402, a proposal to establish a women's naval academy (79A-D26).

**4.90** A collection of bound reports, hearings, and other printed documents from the Naval Affairs Committee is among the library collection of the Armed Services Committee (see paras. 4.119-4.121).

## Committee on the Armed Services, 1947-68

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**4.91** The committee was established under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, which merged the jurisdictions of the former committees on Naval Affairs, and on Military Affairs to form a single committee, the Committee on the Armed Services. The jurisdiction of the new committee included the following subjects:

> a) Common defense generally. b) The Department of Defense generally, including the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force generally. c) Ammunition depots; forts; arsenals; Army, Navy and Air Force reservations and establishments. d) Conservation, development, and use of naval petroleum and oil shale reserves. e) Pay, promotion, retirement, and other benefits and privileges of members of the armed forces. f) Scientific research and development in support of the armed services. g) Selective service. h) Size and composition of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. i) Soldiers' and sailors' homes. j) Strategic and critical materials necessary for the common defense.[5]

**4.92** The committee has functioned through numerous subcommittees, the names and number of which vary from Congress to Congress. Through most of its history there have been four or five standing legislative subcommittees, several special subcommittees appointed to conduct specific studies, and an oversight or investigating subcommittee. The records that have been preserved reflect the complex and often technical nature of the subjects dealt with by the committee, and its reliance on subcommittees to perform most of the work.

***Records of the Committee on Armed Services, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 ft. | 1951-68 | 82d-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 263 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 75 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 342 ft. | | |

**4.93** No **minute books** from the full committee have been transferred to the National Archives, but some minutes of the subcommittees are in archival custody and the files contain the full committee's record set of the minutes of all the subcommittees for the period between 1947 and 1950 (80A-F2.1, 81A-F2.1, see para. 4.110) and for 1967-68 (90th Congress Front Office Files, see para. 4.104). The full committee files that probably would contain the subcommittee minutes for the years between 1950 and 1967 are not among the records currently in the National Archives. During this 17-year period, the records of some subcommittees for particular Congresses have been retired, and these collections sometimes contain minutes, but no systematic collection of subcommittee minutes has been compiled.

**4.94** The **petitions and memorials** referred to the committee show the interest of individuals and organized groups in the events and policies that fell within the jurisdiction of the committee. A file from the records of the 82d Congress (1951-52), for example, contains a petition from the General Assembly of Rhode Island praying for the reactivation of the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point to alleviate economic disruption caused by its closing; a petition from the York Harbor Village Corporation protesting the location of a proposed bomber air base at Newington, NH, because it threatened the welfare and safety of the locality; and a memorial from a woman in Dubuque, IA, demanding that Congress pass legislation to "Defend America at Home!", a policy she claimed could be accomplished by taking American boys out of Korea and stopping the shipment of vital materials to foreign countries (82A-H2.6). Other petitioners during the same Congress raised the issues of civil defense (82A-H2.1), deferment of college students from the draft (82A-H2.2), the dismissal of Douglas MacArthur (82A-H2.3), universal military training (82A-H2.4), and the consumption of alcoholic beverages in the armed services (82A-H2.5).

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[5] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 332.

**4.95** By 1967 some petitions concern the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The committee received a massive petition titled, "Declaration on Napalm: The Use of Napalm Must Be Stopped!" The petition was printed in newspapers and otherwise circulated throughout the United States in 1967 by a group called "Concerned Citizens" from Palo Alto, CA and thousands of citizens signed the document that declared, "The use of napalm is bringing shame upon our nation throughout the world. Its use is wholly unworthy of the ideals for which this nation stands. We demand that our President and the Members of our Congress take immediate steps to stop the manufacture and use of this barbarous weapon" (90-AS-4, 8 in.). That same year, the Rochester Police Locust Club, Inc. requested passage of legislation to exempt policemen from the draft, and the Italian-American War Veterans of the United States, Department of Massachusetts, passed a resolution documenting their condemnation of draft card burners and others who took part in "political dissension; racial turmoil; war rebellion; student disturbance; draft protest." The legislature of the State of New Mexico, recognizing that the draft laws placed an unusually heavy burden on economically and educationally deprived Hispanic Americans, requested Congress to amend the draft laws to allow for a more equitable selection from disadvantaged minority groups.

**4.96** Other subjects that are represented in the petition and memorial files include: The establishment of an Air Force Academy (83A-H2.1), civil defense (83A-H2.2), the establishment of a soldier's home in Massachusetts (83A-H2.4), the National Guard (85A-H2.2), a new method of computing the pay of members of the Armed Forces (85A-H2.1), and protests against a proposed curtailment of employment at the Boston Naval Yard (83A-H2.3, 84A-H2.1). National Guard organizations and the Senior Reserve National Commanders Association of the U.S. Army urged increases in the size of the active Army, the Army Reserve, and the National Guard (87A-H2.1) in the face of threatened cutbacks.

**4.97** Some organizations produced complex petitions listing numerous demands, or sent multiple documents to Congress. The 1955-56 records contain 17 resolutions by which the Jewish War Veterans Association voiced opinions on such subjects as educational benefits for veterans, prisoners held by the Chinese Communists, the Reserve Forces Act of 1955, housing for the Armed Forces, punishment for North Korean and Chinese war crimes, a P.O.W. code, and commissary and post exchanges (84A-H2.1).

**4.98** The **committee papers** of the Armed Services Committee consist of a large number of discrete collections of records retired at various dates by the full committee or one of the subcommittees. Most of the collections are comprised of one type of record or the records of one subcommittee for the two year period of a Congress, but there are a number of collections or record series that span two or more Congresses.

**4.99** Some of the committee papers show the committee's reliance on subcommittees to conduct a large part of the workload; there are, for instance, records of 12 subcommittees in the 80th Congress, 18 subcommittees in the 81st Congress, and 21 in the 90th Congress. Other series, such as the Technical Reference Files and Real Estate Project Files (see below) provide background documentation for the interpretation of highly technical issues in the committee's jurisdiction.

**4.100** For most of the period under consideration, the papers retired by the full committee consist of a series of executive communications that were referred to the committee, a series of reports that were required by law, and very often, a series of departmental legislative proposals. The executive communications are usually arranged by Department or office of origin: Defense, Air Force, Army, Navy, and other agencies. They include documents such as annual reports of departments, agencies, commissions, and other bodies; special reports required by law such as the reports on emergency supplies and equipment required under the Federal Civil Defense Act of 1950; and statements of specific actions such as the approval of construction of an Army National Guard Armory in Alabama.

**4.101** Reports required by law, but not submitted as executive communications, include reports on the real estate transactions of the Department of the Army involving property valued above a certain dollar figure; the "Battle Act Report" filed in accordance with the Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act of 1951; the Annual Report of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals filed in compliance with Article 67(g) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and a report of the Attorney General pursuant to section 3 of Public Law 89-175, an act to provide for exemptions from the antitrust laws to assist in safeguarding the balance of payments position of the United States.

**4.102** Legislative proposal files consist of correspondence and a variety of memoranda prepared by the executive departments proposing specific legislation. The files usually consist of a cover letter, a draft of the legislation, and a section by section analysis of the legislation. Proposals that were introduced usually are filed with the bill or resolution file.

**4.103** The records of the 82d and 83d Congresses also contain certified documents providing for interstate Civil Defense Compacts signed by the Governors of the 50 States.

**4.104** The records of the full committee for the 90th Congress are much more complete than those of the earlier Congresses. The full committee Miscellaneous Front Office Files (24 ft.) include files for each of the 21 subcommittees that contain the minutes of subcommittee meetings and selected correspondence between the subcommittee and the full committee or the subcommittee and certain executive departments. This collection also includes the records of certain subcommittees: the **Special Subcommittee on the M-16 Rifle Program** (4 ft.), the **Subcommittee on Enlisted Promotion Policy Review** (1 ft.), the **Sea Power Subcommittee** (4 in.), and the **Special Subcommittee on Anti-Submarine Warfare** (2 in.) are included as part of this collection. Also included are part of the files of the staff director, and several committee counsels and professional staff members.

**4.105** An additional set of records from the 90th Congress is the massive Armed Services Committee reading file. This file consists of 19 feet of correspondence from the first session and 4 feet from the second session, arranged alphabetically by addressee. No Committee reading files for earlier Congresses have been transferred to the National Archives.

*Multi-Congress and Special Records Collections*

**4.106** In addition to the records described above, which were retired by the full committee at the end of a Congress, a number of significant series of records of the Armed Services Committee have been retired as multi-Congress files. The multi-Congress series include:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Front Office Files | 80th-93d Cong. | (1947-74, 16 in.) |
| Committee Travel Files | 82d-89th Cong. | (1951-66, 1 ft.) |
| Executive Secretary Files | 86th-93d Cong. | (1959-74, 10 ft.) |
| Real Estate Project Files | 82d-86th Cong. | (1951-60, 30 in.) |
| Full Committee and Subcommittee Hearing Transcripts | 81st-89th Cong. | (1949-66, 7 ft.) |
| Technical Reference Files | 89th-93d Cong. | (1966-74, 16 ft.) |
| Technical Reference Files | 89th-94th Cong. | (1966-76, 17 ft.) |
| Oil Shale and Naval Petroleum Reserves Files | 80th-90th Cong. | (1947-68, 3 ft.) |

**4.107** The 80th-93d Congress Front Office Files cover a variety of administrative subjects such as the personnel files of former committee staff members, committee travel, and miscellaneous topics such as invitations to members. A closely related set of records, Committee Travel Files, contain correspondence and vouchers as well as other records related to the travel of committee members and staff. Both sets of files are arranged chronologically by Congress.

**4.108** The Executive Secretary Files are legislative files covering such subjects as military construction, Armed Forces pay, the Universal Military Training and Service Act, aircraft appropriations, and military personnel. These records are, for the most part, research files containing survey data, reports, correspondence, and other information relating to the subjects in the jurisdiction of the committee. The Real Estate Project Files contain records on the acquisition and disposal of real property by the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The Full Committee and Subcommittee Hearing Transcripts include many transcripts of subcommittee hearings and executive sessions. A large number of the executive session transcripts are from the Subcommittee on Real Estate and Construction.

**4.109** The two series of Technical Reference Files are general files kept by the full committee covering a wide variety of subjects concerning the committee and its jurisdiction. The individual files are arranged under the broad categories of personnel, education, intelligence, defense, Congress, medical, facilities, finance, legal, publicity, foreign aid, and transportation. The Oil Shale and Naval Petroleum Files, 80th-90th

Congresses, contain folders on naval petroleum in general, on specific sites such as Elk Hills, Buena Vista Hills, and Teapot Dome, and on issues such as Navy oil exploration, and hearings on naval oil shale reserves.

***Subcommittee Records***

**4.110** The records that have been preserved testify to the importance of the use of subcommittees. The committee papers from the 80th, 81st and 90th Congresses (1947-50, 1967-68) include file folders for each of the subcommittees operating during these years. The subcommittee folders contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the subcommittee, subcommittee correspondence, memoranda, testimony taken at subcommittee hearings, and minutes of subcommittee meetings. During the 80th Congress the 12 subcommittees were identified by the following names and numbers: #1 Personnel; #2 Education and Training; #3 Organization and Mobilization; #4 Heavy Munitions; #5 Air Materiel; #6 Procurement and Supply; #7 Scientific Research and Development; #8 Posts and Stations; #9 Hospitalization, Health, and Medical Corps; #10 Pay and Administration; #11 Legal; and #12 Plans, Organization, and Policy of the Committee on Armed Services. The files of the 81st Congress and 90th Congress contain similar collections, but for the 82d to 89th Congresses (1953-66) the full committee files on the subcommittees are missing.

**4.111** There are no systematically preserved records of the subcommittees mentioned above, and no unpublished documentation has been preserved for most of the subcommittees. Substantial collections of records have been preserved for three investigative subcommittees: Records of the 1951-52 Subcommittee on Procurement (82A-F2.4, 7 ft.); records of the 1953-54 Subcommittee on Defense Activities (83A-F2.3, 19 ft.); and records from the 1955-68 Special Investigations Subcommittee (84th-90th Cong., 73 ft.).

**4.112** The records of these subcommittees consist largely of investigative subject files. A typical file from the records of the **Special Subcommittee on Procurement** is labeled "Army Ordnance District, Birmingham, Alabama" (82A-F2.4) and it contains a variety of documents relating to the committee oversight of the district. Among these are transcripts of executive session subcommittee meetings, documents concerning the awarding of certain contracts, lists of contract inspectors, the results of a survey of active contracts, and reports on delinquent contracts. The Procurement Subcommittee investigated restrictive bidding on government contracts; government purchase of commodities such as turret lathes, water distillation units, and paint for the Navy; cataloging and standardization in the armed services; gross ineptitude and intrigue surrounding armed services contracts with the Elvair Corporation; and a large number of military and naval offices and facilities.

**4.113** The records of the **Subcommittee on Defense Activities** comprise a voluminous collection of papers concerning special investigations and studies undertaken during the 83d Congress. The records include a general subject file (10 ft.), transcripts of hearings (8 ft.), and vouchers (1 ft.). The records concern a wide range of topics, including airstrip paving materials, alleged favoritism of professional athletes in the Armed Forces, the deployment of military personnel in the diplomatic attache and mission system, the operation of post exchanges, complaints and charges concerning activities at various military and naval facilities, and improper conduct involving both personnel and procurement contracts (83A-F2.3).

**4.114** The committee conducted an investigation into the disappearance and death of Major William V. Holohan while he was on duty as an O.S.S. officer behind German lines in Italy during World War II. Major Holohan was murdered in 1944 by subordinate O.S.S. officers who stole a large sum of money that had been entrusted to him. Investigations conducted between 1945 and 1951 uncovered the details of the conspiracy, and allegations concerning the murder were published in *True Magazine*. The files on Holohan's disappearance, including transcripts of hearings and other records relating to the alleged murderer, are in the records of the Subcommittee on Defense Activities (82A-F2.3) and of the full committee (84A-F2.8).

**4.115** Beginning with the 84th Congress, records of the **Special Investigations Subcommittee** exist for every Congress (1955-68, 71 ft.). For each Congress, a large portion of the records of the subcommittee are arranged in subject files and indexed according to a numerical system. These large subject files include investigative subjects, administrative subjects, correspondence of committee members and staff, copies of hearings and special reports published by the subcommittee, transcripts of executive session hearings and meetings, and many other types of documents. The records of the subcommittee contain a large number of transcripts of hearings, many of which are unpublished executive session meetings. The subcommittee records from the 84th Congress (1955-56), for example, include files on investigative subjects such as insurance sold to G.I.s; rocket launchers; airstrip paving materials; correspondence from businesses that claimed to have been unfairly excluded from competitive bidding for contracts; administrative files such as personnel files and expense vouchers; and the minutes of subcommittee meetings (84A-F2.10-2.15, 12 ft.). A reading file for the subcommittee (2 ft.) contains carbon copies of outgoing correspondence from 1953 and 1961 through 1974.

**4.116** The Special Investigations Subcommittee files of the 85th Congress (1957-58) contain over 5 feet of hearing transcripts primarily relating to the following investigations: the Armed Services Procurement Act (85A-F2.12), the General Motors airplane contract (85A-F2.13), and the Raylaine Worsteds investigation (85A-F2.14). The file also contains information on the subcommittee's organizational meetings (85A-F2.16) and various other subjects.

**4.117** In addition to the subcommittee records discussed above, there are small accumulations of records from the following subcommittees:

| | |
|---|---|
| Special Subcommittee No. 5 | (85A-F2.18, 2 in.) |
| Special Subcommittee No. 6 | (85A-F2.19, 7 in.) |
| Subcommittee on Transportation | (86A-F2.11, 2 ft.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Development and Procurement of New Combat and Tactical Vehicles by the Department of the Army | (86A-F2.12, 10 in.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Procurement Practices of the Department of Defense | (86A-F2.13, 5 in.) |
| Special Subcommittee on the M-16 Rifle Program | (90th Cong., 5 ft.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Enlisted Promotion Policy Review | (90th Cong., 1 ft.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Anti-Submarine Warfare | (90th Cong., 4 in.) |

**4.118** **Bill files** exist for every Congress. The files average 7 feet per Congress and consist of thin trifolded files for each bill and resolution referred to the committee. The files usually contain copies of the printed bill along with correspondence between the committee and the affected executive agencies. A typical bill file, H.R. 6501, 80th Congress, a bill to provide for the development of civil transport aircraft adaptable for auxiliary military service, consists of the following documents: A copy of the bill as introduced; a copy of the committee report (H. Rept. 2320, 80th Cong., 1st sess.); letters of comment from the State Department and the Commerce Department; letters from the Air Transport Association of America, the Aircraft Industries Association, and the Airfreight Association asking to be scheduled to appear at hearings on the bill; a transcript of the committee hearing on the bill; and a copy of a prepared statement that was presented before a hearing on the bill held before the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee (80A-D2).

### *Related Records*

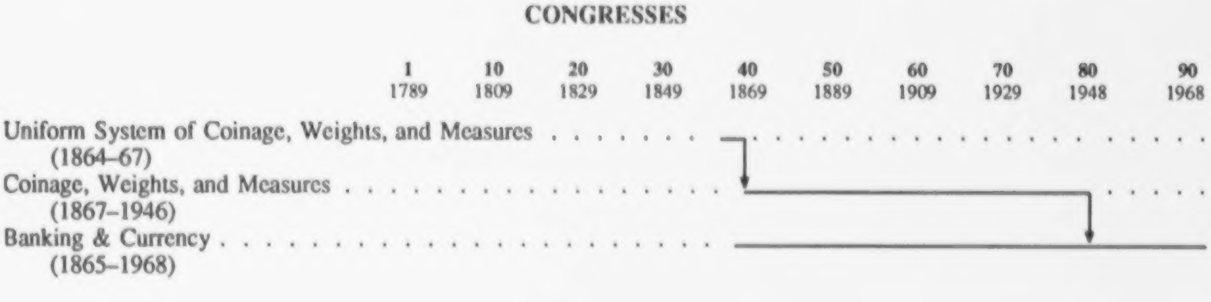
**4.119** The **Armed Services Library Collection** (13th-79th Congresses, 1813-1946, 96 ft.) consists of books and bound documents that appear to have been transferred to that committee in 1947 from the offices of the Committee on Military Affairs and the Committee on Naval Affairs when those committees were abolished. The collection includes a variety of published and unpublished materials.

**4.120** The Library Collection contains many congressional publications concerning the budget and the appropriations estimates prepared by the Secretaries of War and the Navy for the years 1899-1941, as well as numerous volumes of acts, resolutions or laws affecting either the Army or Navy for the years 1885-1942. Also included is a large collection of printed hearings before the military and naval committees of the House and Senate from 1898 through 1946.

**4.121** The collection includes two sets of documents that may be especially helpful in researching the records: McKee's Compilations and minute books. McKee's Compilation consists of volumes of committee reports for both the House and Senate military and naval committees. The Compilation volumes for the Naval Affairs Committee are complete, but those for the Military Affairs Committee are missing the earliest volumes. The original minutes and journals from the Naval Affairs Committee for the years 1863-1936 and the Military Affairs Committee for 1933-46 are included in this collection.

# Chapter 5

# RECORDS OF THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEES


CONGRESSES
1
1789
10
1809
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1829
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1849
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1889
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1909
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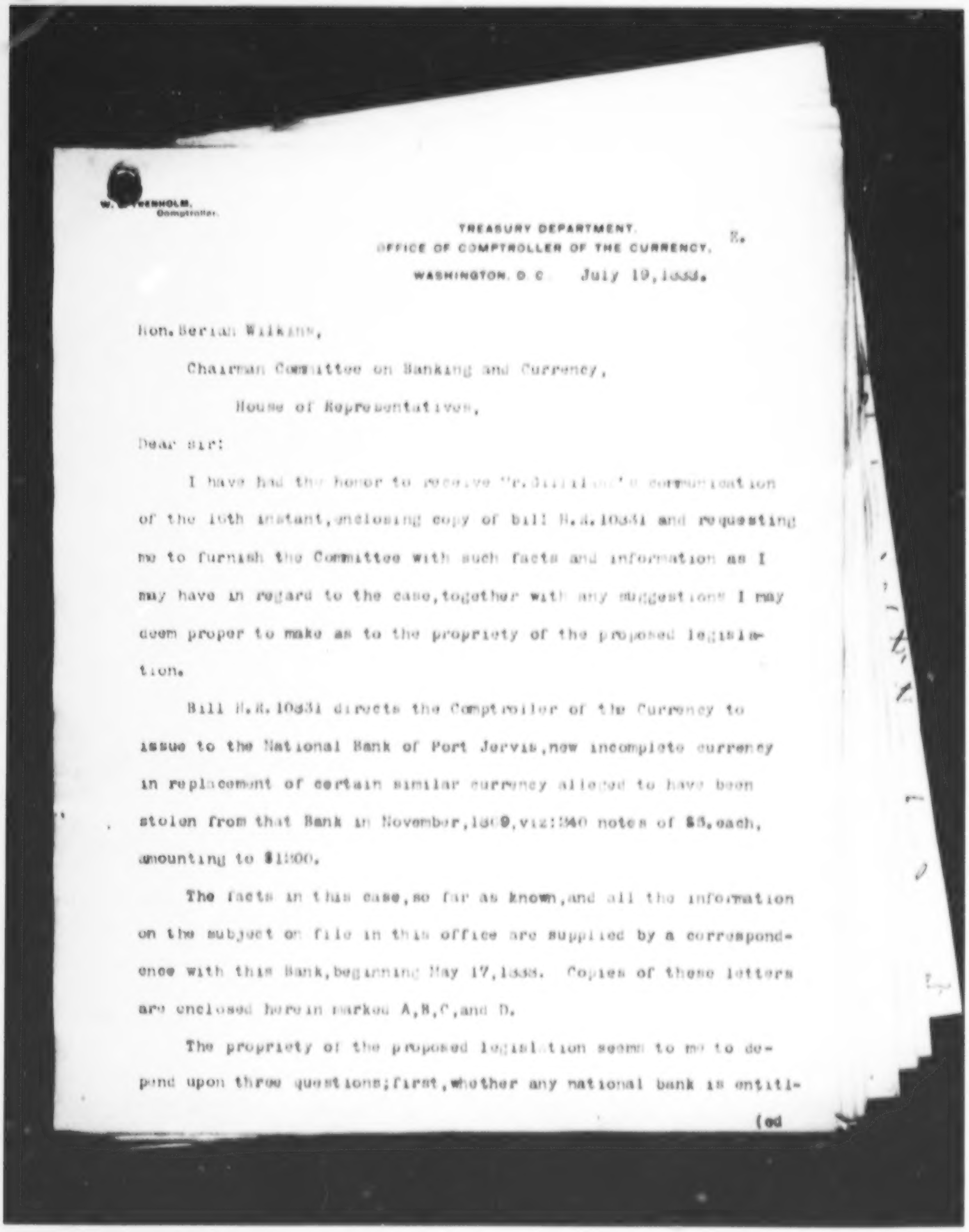
1929
80
1948
90
1968
Uniform System of Coinage, Weights, and Measures (1864–67)
Coinage, Weights, and Measures (1867–1946)
Banking & Currency (1865–1968)



W. [illegible]RENHOLM,
Comptroller.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.
WASHINGTON, D.C. July 19,1888.

E.

Hon. Berian Wilkins,
Chairman Committee on Banking and Currency,
House of Representatives,

Dear sir:

I have had the honor to receive Mr.[illegible]'s communication of the 16th instant, enclosing copy of bill H.R.10831 and requesting me to furnish the Committee with such facts and information as I may have in regard to the case, together with any suggestions I may deem proper to make as to the propriety of the proposed legislation.

Bill H.R.10831 directs the Comptroller of the Currency to issue to the National Bank of Port Jervis, new incomplete currency in replacement of certain similar currency alleged to have been stolen from that Bank in November, 1869, viz: 240 notes of $5. each, amounting to $1200.

The facts in this case, so far as known, and all the information on the subject on file in this office are supplied by a correspondence with this Bank, beginning May 17, 1888. Copies of these letters are enclosed herein marked A, B, C, and D.

The propriety of the proposed legislation seems to me to depend upon three questions; first, whether any national bank is entitl-

(ed

*The House of Representatives has always sought the opinions of the executive agencies on proposed legislation. Letters such as this one from the Office of the Controller of the Currency commenting on H.R. 10831, 50th Congress, appear throughout the records of every House committee. (50A-F4.1)*

# CHAPTER 5

# RECORDS OF THE BANKING AND CURRENCY COMMITTEES

## Committee on Banking and Currency (1865-1968)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**5.1** The Banking and Currency Committee was created in 1865 to relieve the Ways and Means Committee of part of its workload. Its jurisdiction included the chartering and oversight of national banks; the issue of national bank loans; the issue, taxation, and redemption of national bank notes; and the authorization of bond issues. It was responsible for legislation involving the deposit of public moneys, strengthening the public credit, monetary parity, and the issuance of silver certificates as currency. The investigation of the failure of State banks and the affairs of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company were also part of its jurisdiction.

**5.2** The committee's jurisdiction included the legislation that created the Federal Reserve System in 1913 and the establishment and operation of Federal Reserve banks since that date. Since 1921 it has included legislation regarding the War Finance Corporation, the provision of credits for essential industries, rural credits, and farm loans. Since 1932 it has been responsible for home-loan bills.

**5.3.** In 1921 part of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures was transferred to the Banking and Currency Committee, and in 1946 the remainder of the former committee's jurisdiction relating to coinage was similarly transferred as part of the reorganization of Congress. The new formal jurisdiction of the committee was defined to include the following subjects and remained the same until 1971:

> (a) Banking and currency generally. (b) Control of price of commodities, rents, or services. (c) Deposit insurance. (d) Federal Reserve System. (e) Financial aid to commerce and industry, other than matters relating to such aid which are specifically assigned to other committees under this rule. (f) Gold and silver, including the coinage thereof. (g) Issuance of notes and redemption thereof. (h) Public and private housing. (i) Valuation and revaluation of the dollar.[1]

### *Records of the Committee on Banking and Currency, 39th-79th Congresses (1865-1946)**

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 23 vols. | 1867-75, 1877-1919<br>1945-46 | 40th-43d, 45th-65th<br>79th |
| Docket Books | 26 vols. | 1869-83, 1885-1919<br>1939-42, 1945-46 | 41st-47th, 49th-65th<br>76th-77th, 79th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 9 ft. | 1865-67, 1873-83<br>1885-1921, 1939-41<br>1943-46 | 39th, 43d-47th<br>49th-66th, 76th<br>78th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 10 ft. | 1865-69, 1871-81<br>1885-1915, 1917-27<br>1937-46 | 39th-40th, 42d-46th<br>49th-63d, 65th-69th<br>75th-79th |
| Bill Files | 7 ft. | 1903-09, 1911-27<br>1929-31, 1937-46 | 58th-60th, 62d-69th<br>71st, 75th-79th |
| TOTAL: 26 ft. and 49 vols. (4 ft., 1 in.) | | | |

* See continuation table for 80th-90th Congresses after para. 5.33.

**5.4** The **minute books** and **docket books** contain substantial documentation of committee meetings from the creation of the committee until the end of World War I (1865-1919). The minutes for the period between 1919 and 1945 are missing. The earliest minute book, covering the 40th and 41st Congresses (1867-71), contains over 300 handwritten pages, although the majority of the minute books are much briefer. The records of the 62d Congress (1911-13) contain a special minute book for the meetings of the subcommittee, headed by Arsene P. Pujo, to investigate the so-called Money Trust, in addition to the minute book for meetings of the full committee. There are two minute books for the 79th Congress (1945-46), which document the appearance of witnesses before the committee, mark-up sessions, proposed amendments to legislation, and records of the yea and nay votes at committee meetings.

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[1] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress.* H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 333.

**5.5** The **docket books** usually contain entries for each of the bills and resolutions referred to the committee during a given Congress, along with a brief description of the legislation and a record of the progress of the legislation—committee meetings, hearings, and reports; floor consideration, votes, and passage of the measure; and activity in the Senate or White House.

**5.6** The **petitions and memorials** that were referred to the committee document the opposing viewpoints on the financial issues of the day and identify the groups and individuals who supported various policy alternatives. During the years following the Civil War, the financial policy preferences of the debtor and creditor classes were reflected in petitions and memorials concerning legislation on national banks, greenback currency, the resumption of specie payment, inflation of the currency, and other issues.

**5.7** The records from the 39th Congress (1865-67) document some of the financial concerns of citizens just after the end of the Civil War—notably the effects of the tax measures that had been initiated to finance the war. There are petitions from several New York counties asking for the repeal or postponement of the 10-percent tax on the notes of state banks—a tax that the petitioners said would cause a sudden decrease in the amount of currency in circulation and seriously interrupt the business operations of the country. The inhabitants of Oberlin, OH, sent a petition objecting to the national bank system and favoring legal tender currency. Their petition says:

> . . . the present 'National Banking System' of currency is unjust in all its bearings; and especially in that it leaves the control of currency, which should belong to the *entire people*, to the *few capitalists*. . . . It secures to these capitalists double interest on their bonds, which the people, the laboring classes, have to pay directly or indirectly. (39A-H3.1)

J. B. Walker and other officers of the New Hampshire Savings Bank petitioned Congress for changes in another tax law so that savings institutions with no capital stock would be freed from the 5-percent tax on their dividends (39A-H3.1).

**5.8** A few years later, during the 43d Congress (1873-75), the major issues of the petitions and memorials had to do with the depression that had struck the country and the kind of monetary policies that should be pursued in order to aid recovery. Inflationary solutions were encouraged by such petitioners as "John Harbison and 98 other citizens of Livingston County, IL, asking as farmers and working men, that the greenback currency be increased," while other petitioners feared that the inflationary policies would be carried out. Typical petitions from citizens who favored tight currency came from "bankers, merchants, and other citizens of Philadelphia protesting against increase of the volume of currency and praying for a speedy return to specie payment" and from "merchants of Chicago protesting against any further issue of legal tender notes" (43A-H2.1).

**5.9** Some of the petitions were directed toward specific pieces of legislation or policies. A petition from citizens of Hamilton, OH, indicates that the citizens were pleased with the way Congress handled the currency problem, saying that they approved "the action of Congress legalizing the reissue of $44,000,000 legal tender reserve. And the increase of the National Bank Currency to $400,000,000" (43A-H2.1).

**5.10** The largest number of petitions referred to the committee during the 43d Congress, dealt with the control of corruption in government finance rather than with a great national economic problem. Dozens of petitions were received demanding that Congress enact a proposal from the Joint Select Committee on Retrenchment that would guard against the possibility of counterfeiting, altering, overissuing, duplicating, or other fraud in the printing of Government notes, bonds, or coupons (43A-H2.1).

**5.11** Other petitions and memorials referred to the committee claimed compensation for damages that could be attributed to the Government. An example is the petition from a teller at the North Berwick National Bank of North Berwick, ME, asking for the passage of an act to authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to replace $85 in mutilated bank notes that were burned in a mail-car fire (H.R. 3724, 43d Cong.). During the same Congress there were several petitions from persons injured by the failure of some branch banks of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, claiming the right to compensation for the loss (43A-H2.1).

**5.12** The repeal of the taxes on banks that had been imposed to finance the costs of the war was the subject of petitions during the 1870's (44A-H2.2, 46A-H4.3). The Louisville Board of Trade submitted a petition with the signatures of 3,220 citizens declaring, "The tax on capital and deposits of banks and bankers was imposed at a time it was needed for the exigencies of war [but] for some years this tax has been unwarranted and unjustified, and the improved finances of the country no longer require it." Beside each signature is listed the occupation of the petitioner (46A-H4.3).

**5.13** Some of the petitions were quite specific when describing the beliefs and desires of the petitioners. The endorsement from an 1876 petition, for instance, expresses dissatisfaction with specific clauses of the Legal Tender Act of 1875:

> The petition of J. W. Bates and 179 other citizens of Athens, Ohio, who are opposed to inflation, but ask for the repeal of so much of the Act of Congress approved March 14, 1875, as provides for the payment of United States legal tender notes in coin upon the 1st day of Jan. 1879; and so much of the said Act as authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell and dispose of the Bonds of the United States for the purpose of enabling him to redeem such legal tender notes. (44A-H2.1)

At other times, petitioners simply favored making all money issued by the federal government full legal tender (46A-H4.1, 52A-H4.2, 53A-H4.1). Other subjects include a limitation on the rate of interest charged by national banks (44A-H2.3).

**5.14** The petitions and memorials during the last quarter of the 19th century contain numerous documents stating the opinions of groups of citizens on the policy of the Government regarding the issuance of money. The records of the 46th Congress (1879-81) contain many petitions advocating the prohibition of the issuance of money by corporations. Horace Bodwell and 65 other inhabitants of Acton, ME, state their understanding of the concept of sovereignty and the issuance of currency as follows,

> . . . the issuing of money is an act of sovereignty which can properly be exercised by Congress, and that the issuing of money by corporations, chartered by States or the General Government is detrimental to the interest of the people . . . . (46A-H4.2)

**5.15** Between 1889 and 1891, numerous petitions called for the passage of laws for the perpetuation of the national banking system. The petitioners viewed the banking system as one under which the interest of depositors was protected by Government supervision and as a major factor in strengthening Government credit since the establishment of the system in 1863 (51A-H3.3).

**5.16** The records of the 52d and 53d Congresses (1891-95) contain many petitions from various groups advocating repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act. H. C. Deland and 173 businessmen and citizens of Bergen County, NJ, note that "the purchase of silver bullion under the Act of Congress known as the 'Sherman Bill' has proved detrimental to the business interests of our Country, and the continuance of such purchase will within a short time result in financial disaster" (52A-H4.3).

**5.17** Other petitioners demanded general reform of the banking and currency system in the United States, and many of the petitions contain suggestions about how to accomplish the reforms. The 1897 records contain petitions proposing the appointment of a Presidential commission to study banking and currency legislation, an idea that had been recommended earlier by a monetary convention at Indianapolis (55A-H2.1).

**5.18** The petition and memorial files around the end of World War I concern a different set of issues. The Half Century Association of Los Angeles presented a memorial suggesting the creation of a "Federal Interest Commission" to determine what constituted a just rate of interest (65A-H2.2), and the University of Missouri College of Agriculture prepared an analysis of the proposed amendments to the Federal Farm Loan Act and gave a well-reasoned argument against the amendments (65A-H2.2). The 66th Congress (1919-21) records contain petitions (5 in.) supporting passage of H.R. 10518, a bill to provide for a "Federal Urban Mortgage Bank" that would provide Government financial backing for the homeowner the same way the Government already protected the farmer and the banker through the Federal Farm Loan Bank System and the Federal Reserve System (66A-H3.5).

**5.19** During the early 1940's, the control of prices and Government-backed financing for farmers and homeowners were major issues dealt with by the committee. There are petitions urging the extension and amendment of the Housing Act of 1937 and the passage of the Housing Act of 1940 from such diverse groups as the Philadelphia Council of the National Negro Congress and the Pacific Coast Asphalt Shingle and Roofing Institute (76A-H3.6 and 76A-H3.7).

Other groups, such as the Sheepshead Bay Property Owners Association of Brooklyn, NY, petitioned for amendments to the Homeowners Loan Corporation Act (76A-H3.5), and the Elmhurst Heights Taxpayers Association endorsed five bills amending the Homeowners Loan Corporation Act, including H.R. 9059, a bill to provide for a 2-year moratorium on foreclosures (76A-H3.5).

**5.20** During the 76th Congress (1939-41) the committee received many petitions demanding that it hold hearings and report favorably on H.R. 4931, the Voorhis bill, to establish a more Constitutional money system—under Article I, section 8, the power to coin money is reserved to the Congress. Other petitions concerned legislation affecting the Federal Reserve System (76A-H3.4), the federal land banks (76A-H3.3), and credit unions (76A-H3.2).

**5.21** The records of the 78th Congress (1943-44) contain a petition to reduce the cost of living—to roll back prices to the September 1942 levels—signed by 54,607 citizens of Greater St. Louis (78A-H2.1, 18 in.). There are petitions and memorials on various provisions of the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942. The Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association demanded amendments to the Emergency Price Control Act and prefaced their resolutions with the slogan, "Refuse to sell cheese at a loss" (78A-H2.4). Consumers and labor organizations, such as the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, favored extension of the Emergency Price Control Act "without crippling amendments" (78A-H2.2), but other organized campaigns produced large numbers of petitions and memorials favoring changes in the law. Hundreds of bankers and owners of rental property flooded the committee with petitions demanding amendment to the rent-control provisions of the act (78A-H2.6).

**5.22** The 79th Congress was greeted by the first postwar petitions from such groups as the Federation of Architects, Engineers, Chemists, and Technicians and the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion of Fort Worth, who encouraged the passage of S. 1592, the Wagner-Ellender-Taft housing bill, to establish a national housing policy and a means for its implementation (79A-H.3), and by "veterans who are now students living on fixed incomes," who demanded strong price control (79A-H2.4). Several petitions concerning a proposed $3 billion loan to the British for war recovery were also referred to the committee (79A-H2.2).

**5.23** The **committee papers** before 1946 are sparse, and for much of the period they consist of little more than marked-up printer's copies of hearing transcripts and copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee.

**5.24** The committee participated in the investigation of the affairs of a number of national banks and related banking matters. The committee papers between 1867 and 1881 include records relating to investigations of the following institutions: the National Bank of the Metropolis, Washington (40A-F3.1); the First National Bank of Washington (42A-F4.3); the Fourth National Bank of Philadelphia (42A-F4.4); three New York City banks—the Eighth National, the Ocean National, and the Union Square National (42A-F4.2); and the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company (43A-F4.3). The records of 1871-73 contain a file on an investigation of the relationship between the Comptroller of the Currency and the president of the troubled Tennessee National Bank of Memphis (42A-F4.5).

**5.25** The committee papers from the 43d Congress (1873-75) contain the original records relating to the failure of the Ocean National Bank of New York (43A-F4.4, 7 in.). The records include a variety of documents related to the investigation of the bank: various types of correspondence; affidavits; reports of bank examiners; statements of assets and liabilities; receivership documents; numerous documents related to the U.S. circuit court and the Supreme Court of New York, including legal petitions from officers of the bank; reports describing mineral lands and lands in Illinois owned by the receivership; and briefs prepared for the courts. The files also contain typed minutes of the Banking and Currency Committee subcommittee that conducted the investigation, original handwritten drafts of the majority and minority reports of the committee, and a 438-page printed hearing held before the committee.

**5.26** Another well-documented investigation by the committee was the Money Trust Investigation of 1912 conducted by a subcommittee under the chairmanship of Arsene P. Pujo. The records relating to the investigation include correspondence (62A-F2.2, 1 in.); a subcommittee minute book (62A-F2.2); and a bill file of resolutions proposing, authorizing, and funding the investigation, which includes a copy of the hearing before the Rules Committee on H. Res.

411, a resolution to appropriate funds for the investigation, and a copy of the 2,226-page printed hearing of testimony taken by the subcommittee (62A-D2). The 62d Congress records also contain copies of printed hearings on banking and currency reform held by another subcommittee, chaired by Carter Glass, of the Banking and Currency Committee (62A-F2.1).

**5.27** The 67th Congress bill files contain records on H.R. 8404, a bill to authorize an investigation of the international exchange rate in order to determine the best methods of stabilizing the currency (67A-D2).

**5.28** There are small collections of correspondence on various subjects for most of the period and on particular subjects for several Congresses, such as the blackmail of certain Federal and local bank officials (42A-F4.5) and national finance and currency (43A-F4.5).

**5.29** The correspondence files, 1893-95 (53A-F4), relate to a cross section of subjects that concerned the committee: national banks, securities and embezzlement, national currency, currency and gold production, lost and destroyed currency, the State banking system, state bank tax, reports on State banks, bimetalism, the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company, the Sherman Silver Purchase Act, and other subjects. Most of the pre-World War II correspondence is loose and arranged by subject, but a letterpress volume book that contains copies of letters sent from the 52d Congress (1891-93) has been preserved.

**5.30** There are **bill files** for most of the Congresses between the 57th and 79th (1901-46), but many of these files contain only printed copies of the bills and printed committee hearings, prints, and reports. The content of the bill files varies greatly during this period. While information relating to a specific bill might be found in the bill files of any of the Congresses, there are only two systematic bill file collections—the 67th Congress (1921-23, 36 in.), and the 77th Congress (1941-42, 15 in.).

**5.31** The bill files for the 67th Congress (67A-D2, 3 ft.) contain hearings, reports, correspondence, newspaper and journal articles, petitions, and a wide variety of other documents relating to legislation that was referred to the committee. The files are arranged by bill number, and some of them contain substantial documentation. Some of the most heavily documented bills are: H.R. 4906, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act and abolish the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (3 in.); H.R. 6257, a bill to provide for the establishment of branches to national banks (1 in.); H.R. 7879, known as the rural credit and multiple insurance act of 1921 (1 in.); H.R. 9579, a bill relating to the state taxation of national banks (3 in.); and S. 4280, a bill to provide credit to the agricultural and livestock industries of the United States (3 in.).

**5.32** The 77th Congress bill files (77A-D3) contain substantially the same type of documentation, but they include more transcripts of executive session committee meetings and mark-up sessions. There are transcripts of unpublished executive session meetings on legislation such as H.R. 4621, a bill to amend the National Housing Act of 1937; H.R. 7801, a bill to authorize the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to issue $5 million in new bonds, notes, and debentures; H.R. 4694, a bill to continue the Commodity Credit Corporation; and S. 2315, a bill to relieve dealers in rationed commodities. The file on H.R. 5479, the price control bill of 1941, contains a 2,305-page printed hearing, transcripts from 4 days of executive session meetings, typed and handwritten amendments proposed by committee members in markup sessions, and various other documents, including a Legislative Research Service (LRS) summary of testimony on the 1941 bill.

**5.33** The bill files from the 68th, 78th, and 79th Congresses also contain substantial documentation on several bills, but they do not contain systematic files for a large proportion of the bills referred to the committee. For instance, the bill files for the 79th Congress (79A-D4, 7 in.) consist mainly of copies of the bills and resolutions and the printed reports and hearings that accompany them. Although little correspondence or other unpublished documentation is in these files, two of the bill files contain unique original documents: the file on S. 1592, the general housing bill of 1946, contains an unpublished hearing transcript, and the file on H.R. 6042, a bill to amend the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942 and the Stabilization Act of 1942, contains the enrolled bill that was presented to President Harry S. Truman for his signature and the original veto message that Truman returned with the unsigned bill (79A-D4).

*Records of the Committee on Banking and Currency, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)**

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 1 ft. | 1955-62 | 84th-87th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 26 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 22 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 51 ft. | | |

*See table for earlier records, 39th-79th Congresses after para. 5.3.

**5.34** There are no docket books from the 1947-68 period, but much of the information that would have been included in them is in the committee calendars. The **minutes**, which are unbound, are filed with the committee papers and average 3 inches of looseleaf, typed documentation per Congress. They include copies of the bills and resolutions under consideration at committee meetings, mimeographed copies of proposed amendments to legislation, roll-call votes, copies of committee staff memorandums, correspondence from executive agencies, and copies of committee prints, hearings, and reports. The minutes provide the most detailed record of the progress of legislation while in the committee and of the contributions of individual committee members to its consideration. The minutes include extensive documentation on some legislation—for instance, the minutes for 1958 record 15 days of executive session meetings devoted to S. 1451, a bill to amend and revise the statutes governing financial institutions and credit (85A-F3.3).

**5.35** The majority of the **petitions and memorials** from this period are in the form of resolutions from State legislatures or other organizations. The records of most of the Congresses between 1947 and 1969 contain documents relating in some way to housing—Federal support for low-income housing, public housing for the elderly, low-interest mortgages, rent control, and Federal aid to housing construction. Other subjects that appear in the petition files include sugar production and rationing (80A-H2.2); the international wheat agreement (83A-H3.2); price controls (82A-H3.2); school construction (82A-H3.3); Federal disaster insurance (84A-H3.1); urban renewal (85A-H3.1); Federal aid to depressed or distressed areas (85A-H3.1); the promotion of full employment (86A-H3.1); the investigation of the causes of inflation (86A-H3.1); Federal aid to urban mass transit (87A-H3.1, 88A-H3.1); low-interest, long-term loans to small businesses (89A-H3.1); flood control (88A-H3.1, 90A-H3.1); and aid to urban centers for projects involving air pollution, urban renewal, housing, and other problems (90A-H3.1).

**5.36** The petition and memorial files contain numerous resolutions from state legislatures requesting that commemorative coins and bills be produced for special events: South Dakota wanted a dollar bill with the Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the inscription "THE SHRINE OF DEMOCRACY" printed on it (90A-H3.1); Oklahoma wanted a half dollar to commemorate its 50th anniversary (84A-H3.1); and Nevada wanted a silver dollar to commemorate its centennial (86A-H3.1). Somewhat related to these requests are petitions from mining states that suggest certain legislation to benefit the domestic gold industry (85A-H3.1, 87A-H3.1).

**5.37** The **committee papers** contain documentation useful for obtaining an overview of the official work of the committee, but they do not provide insight into how these activities were carried out within the committee. They generally contain copies of all the bills and resolutions referred to the committee and copies of all the hearings, reports, and committee prints produced by the committee. There are no correspondence files for the full committee for this period, and the only subcommittee correspondence is the reading file from the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs for the 89th Congress (1965-66, 5 in.).

**5.38** A large proportion of the committee papers consists of executive communications that were referred to the committee, except that executive communications are missing entirely for the years 1955-58. Executive communications include annual and other reports from such federal agencies as the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Export-Import Bank, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Federal Home Loan Bank, and the Office of Price Administration; reports required under legislation within the jurisdiction of the committee, such as the Small Business Act of 1958 and the Housing Act of 1959; and drafts of proposed legislation within the committee's jurisdiction submitted by executive agencies. Also included in the records of the 81st through the 83d Congresses (1949-54) are messages from the President that were referred to the committee.

**5.39** The committee papers for this period contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee. In some cases a folder was set up for each bill or resolution, but the only documentation contained therein is a copy of the bill and of the printed committee hearings and report. They do not contain correspondence, memorandums, or other related unpublished working papers. For the period 1949-58, there is a series of records called **bill files**, but these contain, for the most part, only copies of printed documents.

## Committee on A Uniform System of Coinage, Weights, and Measures (1864-67)

## Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures (1867-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**5.40** In 1864 the Committee on a Uniform System of Coinage, Weights, and Measures was established, and in 1867 the name was shortened to Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures.

**5.41** Its jurisdiction included the subjects listed in its name: coinage, weights, and measures. The coinage part of the jurisdiction included the defining and fixing of standards of value and the regulation of coinage and exchange. This included the coinage of silver and the purchase of bullion, the exchange of gold coins for gold bars, the subject of mutilated coins, and the coinage of souvenir and commemorative coins. The committee's jurisdiction also included legislation related to mints and assay offices and the establishment of legal standards of value in the insular possessions.

**5.42** The weights and measures part of the jurisdiction included legislation to establish a national standardization bureau and the standardization of various weights, measures, packing, and grading techniques used in interstate commerce.

**5.43** The part of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures relating to stabilization of the currency was transferred to the Banking and Currency Committee in 1921. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the coinage part of its jurisdiction was transferred to the Committee on Banking and Currency and the weights and measures jurisdiction was transferred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

*Records of the Committee on Coinage, Weights, and Measures, 38th-79th Congresses (1864-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 14 vols. | 1867-71, 1877-95<br>1897-1907, 1937-42<br>1945-46 | 40th-41st, 45th-53d<br>55th-59th, 75th-77th<br>79th |
| Docket Books | 16 vols. | 1867-71, 1873-75<br>1879-95, 1897-1907<br>1923-25, 1931-38<br>1941-42, 1945-46 | 40th-41st, 43d<br>46th-53d, 55th-59th<br>68th, 72d-75th<br>77th, 79th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 5 ft. | 1873-75, 1883-1907<br>1933-34, 1937-42 | 43d, 48th-59th<br>73d, 75th-77th |
| Comm. Papers | 9 in. | 1869-71, 1873-75<br>1887-91, 1893-1903<br>1905-7, 1923-25<br>1931-38, 1941-42<br>1945-46 | 41st, 43d<br>50th-51st, 53d-57th<br>59th, 68th<br>72d-75th, 77th<br>79th |
| Bill Files | 9 in. | 1905-9, 1925-27<br>1929-42, 1945-46 | 59th-60th, 69th<br>71st-77th, 79th |
| TOTAL: | 6 ft., 6 in. and 30 vols. (2 ft. 6 in.) | | |

**5.44** There are no unpublished records for the committee during its earliest years, 1864-67. During the remainder of the life of the committee, the petition and memorial files and the minute and docket books contain the most systematic documentation of committee activity, the committee papers files contain less than 1 inch of material per Congress, and the bill files are spotty and thin.

**5.45** The extant **minute and docket** books are fairly complete. The minute books appear to have been well kept, documenting committee meetings, witnesses heard, and legislation discussed. They average 25 pages per Congress and are handwritten during most of the period.

**5.46** Three-quarters of the **petitions and memorials** in the files of this committee relate to the issue of silver coinage between 1885 and 1895. The records of the 53d Congress (1893-95) contain an even distribution of petitions and memorials for and against the increased coinage of silver (53A-H5.2, 22 in.). Groups such as the citizens and businessmen of Far Rockaway, NY, believed that in order to restore confidence in the currency it was necessary to repeal the purchasing clause of the Sherman Silver Purchase Act and appoint an expert commission to devise a scientific plan for the currency. On the other end of the spectrum, the "friends of silver" of Spokane, WA, were "unalterably opposed to the repeal of legislation commonly known as the 'Sherman Act' of 1890," unless the repealing legislation included a more powerful coinage provision. Other groups, such as the Glass Blower's Association of the United States and Canada, petitioned for "restoration of the American law of coinage as it was until 1873 when silver was demonitized without debate, and without the knowledge of the American people," favoring a return to the free coinage of silver and gold at a ratio of 16 to 1.

**5.47** Legislation concerning the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures has been the subject of petitions and memorials over many years (43A-H3.2, 48A-H5.1, 54A-H6.1, 57A-H3.1, 59A-H5.1). The records of the 54th Congress (1895-97), for instance, contain petitions urging passage of a bill to adopt the metric system, H.R. 2758, from citizens from many cities and from pharmacuetical and engineering groups. The legislation was opposed by members of the Master Car Builders Association and the builders of certain railroad cars (54A-H6.1).

**5.48** Other subjects that appear are petitions and memorials concerning redemption of the trade dollar (48A-H5.2, 49A-H6.2), the establishment of a national bureau of standards (56A-H3.1), coinage at the Denver Mint (43A-H3.1), and the restoration of the bimetallic monetary system (73A-H3.2). Less than 2 inches of petitions and memorials have been preserved since 1907.

**5.49** The **committee papers** files primarily contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee and copies of committee reports and hearings produced by the committee. Among the committee papers are correspondence from several civil engineers in 1887 favoring adoption of the metric system of measurement (50A-F6.1), a petition and an accompanying letter suggesting the adoption of the "dime system" of coinage (43A-F6.2), and communications from various executive departments concerning legislation that affected them.

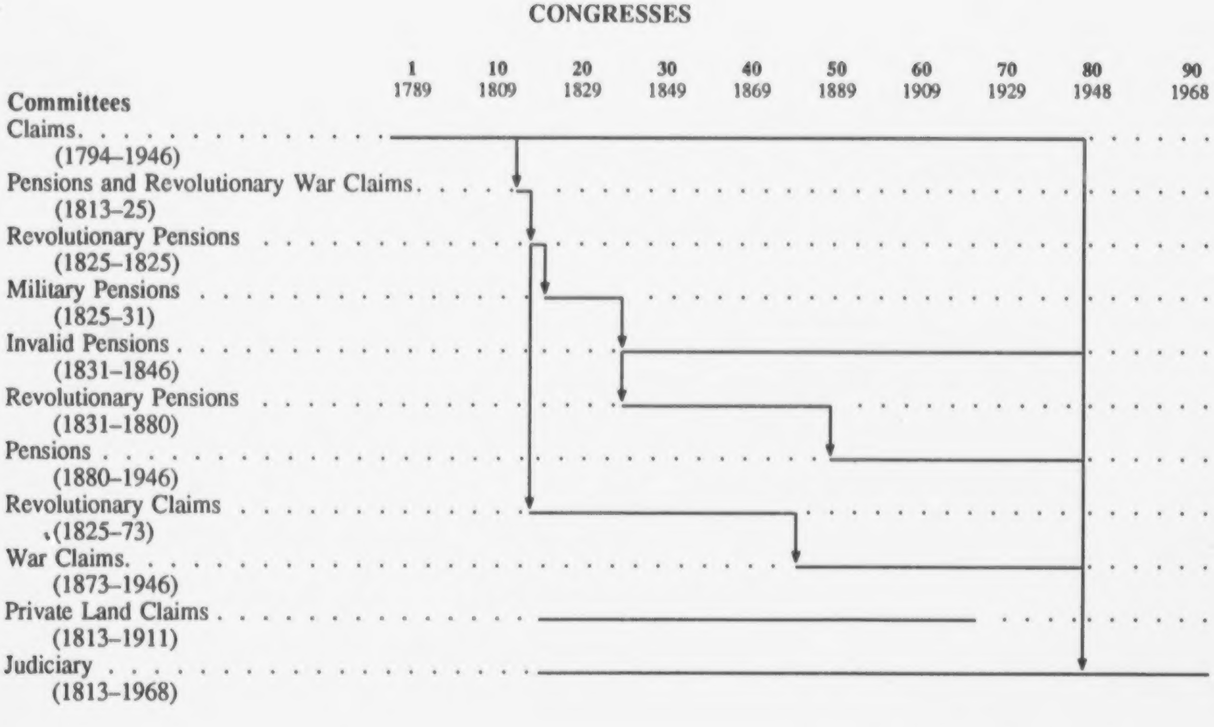
**5.50** The **bill files** contain printed copies of bills and resolutions, associated reports and hearings, and, occasionally, a transcript of an unprinted hearing or a letter from an executive agency commenting on legislation that affected the agency. They reflect the subjects of the bills referred to the committee.

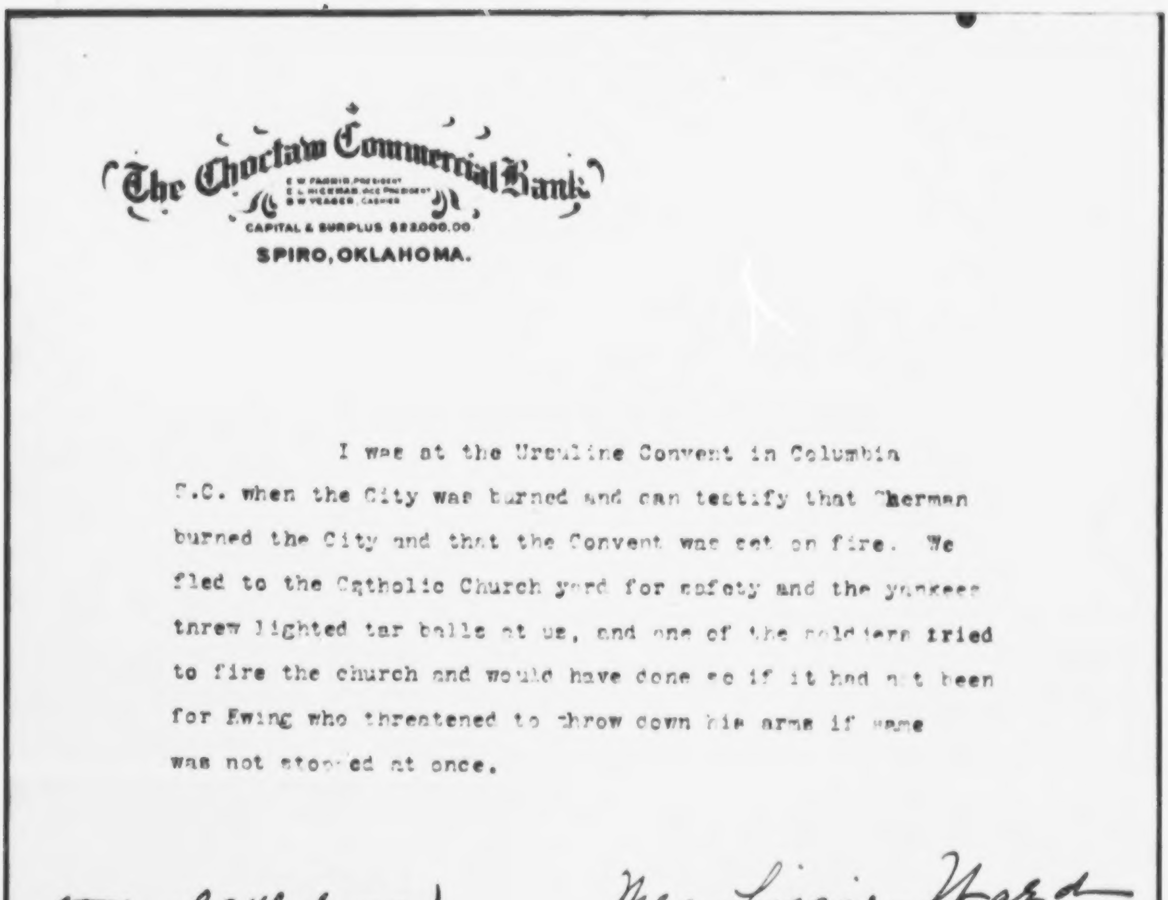
**5.51** There are numerous bills proposing that commemorative coins be issued. The records from 1925 to 1927 (69A-D6) contain files on H.R. 16916, a bill to provide for a coin to commemorate the services, sacrifices, and patriotism of American women of all wars; H.R. 8306, a bill to coin a 50-cent piece commemorating the courage of the Oregon Trail pioneers; and H.R. 17268, a bill to coin a 50-cent piece to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the meeting of the Continental Congress at York, PA. The records from 1933 and 1934 (73A-D4) contain a file on H.J. Res. 72, a resolution proposing to award a gold medal to Mrs. W. F. Cross for her service protecting the life of President Franklin D. Roosevelt by diverting an assassin's bullet in 1933; in the file is correspondence favoring presentation of the medal and correspondence contesting the appropriateness of its presentation.

**5.52** Other bill files include legislation such as H.R. 6976, which became the Gold Rescue Act of 1934 (73A-D4), and H.R. 5677, a bill to fix standards for hampers, round stave baskets, and split baskets for fruit and vegetables (69A-D6). The bill files from 1907 to 1909 contain copies of bills accompanied by very little other documentation. Among them are bills to establish assay offices at specific locations (60A-D4) and to restore "IN GOD WE TRUST" to coinfaces (60A-D4).

# Chapter 6

# RECORDS OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEES


CONGRESSES
1
1789
10
1809
20
1829
30
1849
40
1869
50
1889
60
1909
70
1929
80
1948
90
1968
Committees
Claims. (1794–1946)
Pensions and Revolutionary War Claims (1813–25)
Revolutionary Pensions (1825–1825)
Military Pensions (1825–31)
Invalid Pensions (1831–1846)
Revolutionary Pensions (1831–1880)
Pensions (1880–1946)
Revolutionary Claims (1825–73)
War Claims. (1873–1946)
Private Land Claims (1813–1911)
Judiciary (1813–1968)



The Choctaw Commercial Bank

CAPITAL & SURPLUS $22,000.00

SPIRO, OKLAHOMA.

I was at the Ursuline Convent in Columbia S.C. when the City was burned and can testify that Sherman burned the City and that the Convent was set on fire. We fled to the Catholic Church yard for safety and the yankees threw lighted tar balls at us, and one of the soldiers tried to fire the church and would have done so if it had not been for Ewing who threatened to throw down his arms if same was not stopped at once.

Mrs Lizzie Ward

State of Oklahoma, }
County of Le Flore, }

Before me John B. McCann, a Notary Public in and for said county and State on this 25" day of November 1912, personally appeared Mrs Lizzie Ward, to me known to be the identical person who signed the above ~~[illegible]~~ instrument and upon oath swears that the above facts as setforth are true in every particular.

dated at Spiro Okla. Nov 25" 1912.

John B. McCann.
Notary Public.

My commission expires
Jany 1/15

Exhibit-Q

*The sworn affidavit of Mrs. Lizzie Ward was 1 of 17 such documents submitted as evidence to support H.R. 14529 for the relief of the Ursuline Convent in Columbia, SC. (63A-F38.1)*

# CHAPTER 6

## RECORDS OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEES

### Introduction

**6.1** This chapter describes the records of the committees of the House of Representatives that have dealt primarily with private legislation concerning claims and pensions. The committees share the distinction of being created solely to process claims and report legislation to facilitate the process.[1] They are grouped together because of the similarity of both the records they generated and the research techniques and resources that are needed to access the records. More than any other set of Congressional records, these contain information relating to the private lives of individuals, and may be especially useful to genealogical researchers.[2]

**6.2** Legislation enacted by Congress can be divided into two classes: public and private. Public laws are universal in nature, applying to classes of persons or legal entities, rather than to a specified individual or entity. Private laws apply to specific persons or groups of persons; they grant pensions, authorize payment of claims, provide exemption from specific legislation such as immigration laws, or afford some other form of relief to a private individual or legal entity. The committees discussed in this chapter handled most of the private legislation that passed through Congress.

**6.3** The power of Congress to provide for the payment of claims derives from the first clause of Article I, section 8 of the Constitution which provides that, "The Congress shall have Power . . . to pay the Debts . . . of the United States." Throughout American history, this provision has been construed to include not only legal but also moral obligations. This position is stated in the 1895 Supreme Court in *U.S.* v. *Realty Company*:

> The term 'debts' includes those debts or claims which rest upon a merely equitable or honorary obligation, and which would not be recoverable in a court of law if existing against an individual. The nation, broadly speaking, owes a 'debt' to an individual when his claim grows out of general principles of right and justice.[3]

**6.4** Individual claims for pensions comprise a special class of claim. Pensions usually refer to allowances of money paid in fixed amounts at certain intervals by a government to individuals who have rendered some valuable public service, or to dependent relatives of such persons. Pensions have been granted to disabled soldiers and sailors, to the widows and orphans of those who died in the service of their country, and for service during certain specified periods such as the War of 1812.

**6.5** During its first 150 years, the House created a number of standing committees to report on the merits of petitions claiming the right to relief from the Federal Government. As the 19th century progressed, the number of claims increased tremendously and by mid-century there were five committees whose sole jurisdiction consistéd of private claims: the committees on Claims, Invalid Pensions, Revolutionary Pensions, Revolutionary Claims, and Private Land Claims. Yet even with the proliferation of claims committees, some of them still handled a tremendous workload—Lauros McConachie notes that 40 percent of all the bills introduced in the House in 1888 were referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.[4]

**6.6** Although the Government has generally attempted to provide relief for claims that were deemed to have merit, the process of securing relief could be a long and frustrating experience. Many claims were submitted repeatedly to successive Congresses and the process often stretched on long after the life of the original claimant. The memorial of L. Madison Day (49A-H5.1) gives voice to the frustrations of recovering damages from the government:

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[1] Many of the committees discussed in other chapters have reported claims and other types of private legislation relating to the subjects that are under their jusisdictions. The committees on Immigration and Naturalization, Patents Judiciary, Military Affairs, naval Affairs, Indian Affairs, Foreign Affairs, and Post Office and Post Roads, each disposed of alarge numbers of claims. But the settlement of claims was not the principal subject of the jusisdiction of those committees.

[2] For other genealogical records at the National Archives see *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*, (Washington: National Archives Trust Fund Board, 1983.

[3] Congressional Quarterly, Inc., *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to Congress*, 2d ed. (Washington: Congressional Quarterly, Inc. 1976) p. 302.

[4] McConachie, Lauros G., *Congressional Committees: A Study of the Origins and Development of Our National and Local Legislative Methods*. (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1898). Reprint ed. (New York: Burt Franklin Reprints, 1973) p. 73.

> This claim has been before Congress for some time, and has been many times favorably reported upon, four times in the House and five times in the Senate, and was passed by the Senate during the forty-seventh Congress, but was not reached for consideration in the House.

**6.7** The records described in this chapter abound in examples of petitioners and heirs whose pursuit of relief sometimes lasted decades. A tribute to American tenacity can be seen in the efforts of Richard W. Meade, his wife and his descendants, who labored for over 100 years to obtain settlement of his 1803 claim against Spain which had been assumed by the United States under a treaty. Members of the Meade family submitted claims in every Congress between the 16th and the 52d (1819-1893) except for the 17th, and 38th, and they continued to pursue settlement until at least 1911 (45A-H5.1, 61A-F5.2 and many others).

**6.8** Increasing the number of claims committees was one way to expedite consideration of private claims before the House. Another means of facilitating the movement of private legislation through the House was the use of the Private Calendar. The practice of setting aside particular days for the consideration of private bills dates from as early as 1810.[5]

**6.9** The Court of Claims was created in 1855 (10 Stat. 612) to hear claims against the United States. It relieved the pressure on Congress by providing some claimants with an opportunity to litigate certain types of claims against the Government. Before the establishment of the court the only way to settle claims was to apply to the Treasury Department and if the claim was rejected, to petition Congress for relief. Passage of the Bowman Act of 1883 and the Tucker Act of 1887, increased the powers of the Court of Claims but it still was unable to relieve Congress of the task of examining large numbers of private bills.

**6.10** During the frenzied activity of the World War II years legislators recognized the heavy demands private legislation made on their limited time. As part of the effort to streamline the post-war Congress and increase the efficiency of the institution, the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 revised the procedures for handling private claims. Title IV of the Reorganization act was known as the Federal Tort Claims Act,[6] and it provided for the settlement of certain claims by the executive departments and agencies. The 1946 Act set the maximum dollar amount of agency-settled tort claims at $1,000, but this limit was raised to $25,000 by a 1966 Act. Since the passage of the 1946 act the Judiciary Committee has been the only House committee to handle private legislation.

**6.11** Research involving private claims against the Government can be a complicated and time-consuming procedure. In order to conduct a thorough search for records relating to the claims of an individual, it is often necessary to examine the indexes and records of both houses of Congress. Claims were brought before the House of Representatives by means of a petition or memorial from the claimant, or as a bill or resolution passed by the Senate. Petitions submitted by a claimant over many years may be found in the records of the House, the records of the Senate, or in the records of both houses of Congress. It is not unusual to find that documentation relating to a claim had been charged out of the records of one Congress to be used as supporting materials for a claim submitted by the same claimant at a later Congress. By the same token, claims petitions or other documentation that were submitted to a claims committee of the House have, on occasion, been located among the records of a Senate claims committee—evidence that records loaned between the chambers were not always returned.

**6.12** A number of published sources exist that facilitate research in the private claims submitted to Congress. Listed below are indexes to the claims presented to both the House and Senate:

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[5] McConachie, p. 76f. In 1810 Fridays were set aside for legislation introduced by petition. By the second session of the 19th Congress (1826-27) House Rule 19 specified that "Friday and Saturday in every week shall be set apart for the consideration of private bills and private business."

[6] This was replaced by the Tort Claims Act of June 25, 1948 (62 Stat. 1008) as amended.

HOUSE CLAIMS INDEXES

| | |
|---|---|
| 1st-31st Congresses (1789-1851) | H. Misc. Doc. (unnumbered) 32d Cong., 1st sess. (Serials 653-655) 3 vols. |
| 32d-41st Congresses (1851-71) | H. Misc. Doc. 109, 42d Cong., 3d sess. (Serial 1574) 526 pp. |
| 42d-46th Congresses (1871-81) | H. Misc. Doc. 53., 47th Cong., 1st sess. (Serial 2036) 744 pp. |
| 47th-51st Congresses (1881-91) | H. Misc. Doc. 213, 53d Cong., 2d sess.; (Serial 3268) 749 pp. |
| Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880 | *Consolidated Index of Claims reported by The Commissioners of Claims to the House of Representatives from 1871 to 1880.* Compiled under the supervision of J.B. Holloway and Walter H. French (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1892) 262 pp. |

SENATE CLAIMS INDEXES

| | |
|---|---|
| 14th-46th Congresses (1815-81) | S. Misc. Doc. 14, 46th Cong., 3d sess.; (Serials 1945, 1946) 2 vols. |
| 47th-51st Congresses (1881-91) | S. Misc. Doc. 266, 53d Cong., 2d sess.; (Serial 3175) 3 vols. |
| 52d-55th Congresses (1891-99) | S. Doc. 449, 56th Cong., 1st sess.; (Serial 3881) 2 vols.Q04 |
| 56th-57th Congresses (1899-1903) | S. Doc. 221, 57th Cong., 2d sess.; (Serial 4433) 197 pp. |
| 58th Congress (1903-5) | S. Doc. 3, 59th Cong., 1st sess.; (Serial 4917) 709 pp. |
| 59th-61st Congresses (1905-09) | S. Doc. 646, 62d Cong., 2d sess.; (Serial 6165) 865 pp. |

**6.13** The indexes shown above were published as part of the Congressional Serial Set, and list the claims that were introduced on the floor of the House and Senate. They generally provide the name of the claimant, the nature of the claim, committee of referral, Congress and session, number and nature of report, number of bill, disposition in the other House, and date of the act and miscellaneous remarks. There are no comparable indexes for 20th century claims. Several sources exist that may be helpful in locating 20th century claims but none of them have the scope and completeness of the serial set indexes.

**6.14** One of the modern sources is the *CIS U.S. Serial Set Index, 1789-1969*, (Bethesda, MD: Congressional Information Service, Inc., 1975). In compiling the index, the Congressional Informatin Service (CIS) divided the period 1789-1969 into 12 chronological segments. Each segment is indexed by two volumes arranged alphabetically by subject, subtitled "Subject Lists" and by one volume subtitled "Numerical Lists and Schedule of Volumes." The volumes of "Numerical Lists" contain a section called "Private Relief and Related Actions, Index to Names of Individuals and Organizations," that provides citations to published reports and documents. It should be emphasized that the citations are to congressional documents published in the *Congressional Serial Set* and not to the original petitions or claims documents found among the records of the claims committees. Many claims documents in the records were not published. Also useful to researchers are the published committee calendars of the claims commitees (until the committees were abolished in 1946) and the Judiciary Committee. The House Judiciary Committee calendars list all claims legislation referred to the committee separately from other types of bills and resolutions (see Chapter 14).

## Committee on Claims (1794-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.15** The Committee on Claims is one of the oldest standing committees in the House of Representatives. It was established on November 13, 1794, having been preceded by select committees on claims. The committee was given the following jurisdiction:

> To take into consideration all petitions and matters or things touching claims and demands on the United States as shall be presented or shall or may come in question and be referred to them by the House, and to report their opinion thereon, together with such propositions for relief therein as to them shall seem expedient.[7]

**6.16** Select committees to deal with petitioners submitting claims had been appointed as early as the First Congress. The number of claims petitions soon proved sufficient to warrant the creation of a standing committee devoted solely to that subject, and soon after its establishment the committee found itself overwhelmed by the workload.

**6.17** Originally the Committee on Claims had jurisdiction over Revolutionary War and land claims as well as pensions. According to congressional lore, the workload of the committee became so burdensome that the committee chairman, Stevenson Archer of Maryland, proposed that its jurisdiction be truncated, and that a Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims be established to manage that part of the case load. In the years that followed other committees were created to handle special types of claims such as war claims, pensions, and private land claims.

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[7] Cannon, Clarence, *Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1935). Vol. 7, p. 814, para. 1992.

**6.18** With the establishment of the various war claims and pensions committees in the House, the jurisdiction of the Committee on Claims was restricted and certain classes of claims referred elsewhere. Under the 1880 revised House Rules subjects relating to "private and domestic claims and demands other than war claims against the United States" were to be referred to the Claims Committee.[8]

**6.19** Although the majority of the legislation the committee reported by the committee was private in nature, it also reported general bills authorizing the Court of Claims to dispose of certain classes of claims, such as the French Spoliation Claims. In addition to deciding on claims for compensation for damages resulting from Government activities, the committee was responsible for the replacement of lost bonds, coupons, and checks drawn on the Treasury of the United States. It was also responsible for legislation concerning adjustments of the accounts of expenditures of the several States and Territories and the Government of the United States.

**6.20** From the time of its establishment in 1794, the Claims Committee had reported appropriations of money for payment of claims it had authorized.[9] At the end of the 79th Congress the committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, and jurisdiction over the subjects that had formerly been referred to it was transferred either to the Judiciary Committee or the executive departments.

*Records of the Committee on Claims, 3d-79th Congresses (1794-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 22 vols. | 1845-1903 | 29th-57th |
| Docket Books | 75 vols. | 1825-45, 1847-1909<br>1911-34 | 19th-28th, 30th-60th<br>62d-73d |
| Bound Reports | 20 vols. | 1794-1867 | 3d-39th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 40 ft. | 1793-95, 1799-1869<br>1871-73, 1877-91<br>1895-97, 1905-11 | 4th, 6th-40th<br>42d, 45th-51st<br>54th, 59th-61st |
| Comm. Papers | 23 ft. | 1793-1803, 1805-1938<br>1941-46 | 3d-7th, 9th-75th<br>77th-79th |
| Bill Files | 272 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |

TOTAL: 335 ft. and 117 vols. (28 ft.)

**6.21** The **minute books** generally record the order of business in committee meetings, noting which committee member introduced a particular claim and usually whether the committee report on that claim was favorable or unfavorable. The **docket books** record the petitions and memorials that were referred to the committee. The earliest docket books list the claims in alphabetical order by name of claimant, but later volumes list the documents referred to the committee in chronological order by date of receipt. There are two or three docket volumes for many Congresses. Records of the 36th Congress (1859-61) include eight docket volumes containing transcribed Kansas Claims records.

**6.22** **Other bound records** include several types of documents. Seven volumes contain transcribed committee reports covering the 3d through 21st Congresses (1794-1831). These transcribed reports are "record" copies of original reports found among the committee papers. Few of these reports have been published. There are four volumes of indexes to these reports and to the original reports found in the committee papers files.

**6.23** Three bound letter books contain transcribed copies of letters sent from the committee to other Government officials during the 21st through 39th Congresses (1829-67). They include letters to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Third Auditor, the Secretary of War, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Navy, and various military officers. Another bound volume contains an index to letters sent (1835-47).

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[8] U.S. Congress, House of Representatives, Committee on Pensions, Committee Print, "History of the House Committee on Pensions," available in the CIS Committee Prints Microfiche Collection, Microfiche #10969 (hereafter cited as Microfiche #10969).

[9] Cannon, p. 813, para. 1992.

**6.24** Basically there are two types of unbound records for this committee: the petitions submitted by claimants, including documents providing evidence supporting the claims; and the documents generated by or for the committee, including reports from the Commissioners of Claims or from other Government officials, transcripts of hearings held by the committee, committee reports, and bills or resolutions reported by the committee. These types of documents exist for the entire history of the committee, although the series allocation and kind of information each type of document provides varies over time.

**6.25** **Petitions and memorials** exist for almost every Congress from the 3d to the 38th (1794-1865). These files consist primarily of the petitions and memorials submitted by claimants, but sometimes documents supporting a claim are included. The files range in size from about 7 inches per Congress before 1813 to about 20 inches per Congress from 1813 to 1865. After the 38th Congress the files are sparse and they no longer contain the bulk of the documents submitted to the committee. At the end of the 39th Congress and thereafter for each Congress through the 57th, the records relating to private legislation were collected from the Claims Committee and all other House committees handling such matters and interfiled in a large series known as "accompanying papers" (see Chapter 24). After the 57th Congress the accompanying papers series was discontinued and the records are usually filed in the committee bill files.

**6.26** The **committee papers** files cover roughly the same period as the petition and memorial files, and for much the same reason. Before the 39th Congress these files contain, almost exclusively, the original committee reports on the petitions and memorials that are found in the petition and memorial files. In some cases, however, the committee papers may include the original petition or memorial, as well as additional original supporting papers, and/or other documentation. The larger files generally resulted when additional documents were sent to the public printer as exhibits for the printed committee report. Whatever the reason for the appearance of such miscellaneous items in the committee papers, the researcher should be aware that original documentation may be found in either committee papers or petitions and memorials.

**6.27** From 1865 to 1903, the committee reports that comprise the bulk of the committee papers are filed along with related documentation in the accompanying papers file for the appropriate Congress, under the name of the claimant. After 1903 they are filed in the committee bill files under the name of the claimant.

**6.28** Records found in the early committee papers include an 1822 claim from the State of Tennessee for horses lost in the Seminole campaign (17A-C3.1); a 1832 claim from Samuel Meeker, who maintained that he was not paid for goods he supplied to Aaron Burr's 1806 expedition in the south (22A-G3.1); a claim from the State of Alabama for losses sustained in the war with the Creek Indians (25A-D3.1, 27A-G3.1); and a claim from the heirs of Robert Fulton for steam boat service (27A-D3.1, 28A-D3.1).

**6.29** Documents from the second half of the century include those of Roger Jones, the commanding officer who burned the arsenal at Harpers Ferry (37A-G1.1); a claim of H. H. McColley for land the War Department appropriated in 1870 for use as a military reservation near Camp McDermott, NM (43A-F5.1); and complaints and affidavits against C.F. Benjamin, a clerk of the Southern Claims Commission (44A-F5.1).

**6.30** Records found among the committee papers from 1909-13 include Thomas Hoynes' claim for depredations by the Cheyenne Indians in 1867 (61A-F5.1), Richard Meade's perennial claim for merchandizing in Spain in the early 1800's (61A-F5.2), and French Spoliation Claims from as early as 1797 that were to be settled under the Act of January 20, 1885 (62A-F3.2). After the 58th Congress most claim records are found in the bill files.

**6.31** The series of **bill files** that begins in 1903 consists of files of documents relating to each of the claims referred to the committee. The bill files for each Congress are arranged in alphabetical order by name of claimant and contain all the documents related to each claim. They may contain the petition or memorial that initiated the claim, correspondence, bills or resolutions, hearing transcripts or printed hearings, committee reports, Commissioner of Claims reports, and a wide variety of support documents.

**6.32** Many of the claims from the 20th century are from businesses that performed contract work for the Government, such as the 1905 claim from builders of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers who claimed that they lost money trying to build this new type of vessel (58A-D4); the claim of Willie Cramp & Sons, who asserted that the firm lost money building the *U.S.S. Indiana* (60A-D3); and that of the Gadsden Contracting Company which claimed that its pile driver had been damaged in 1920 (66A-D4).

## Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary War Claims (1813-25)

## Committee on Revolutionary Pensions (1825)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.33** The Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary War Claims was created on December 22, 1813, largely to alleviate the burden of the Committee on Claims. It was the duty of the committee:

> to take into consideration all such petitions, and matters, or things, touching military pensions; and also claims and demands originating in the Revolutionary War, or arising therefrom . . . and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief therein as to them shall seem expedient.[10]

**6.34** On December 9, 1825 the name of the committee was changed to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, while its jurisdiction remained unchanged. A few days later, on December 13, 1825, the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction split between two new committees—the Committee on Military Pensions and the Committee on Revolutionary Claims.

### *Records of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary War Claims, 13th-19th Congresses (1813-1825) and the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, 19th Congress (1825)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bound Reports | 2 vols. | 1813-25 | 13th-19th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 5 ft. | 1813-25 | 13th-18th |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1813-25 | 13th-18th |
| TOTAL: | 6 ft. and 2 vols. (6 in.) | | |

**6.35** The transcribed **committee reports** are bound in two volumes: one covers the 13th through 18th Congresses (1813-23); the other includes the reports of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, 19th Congress (1925-27) and the reports of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, 20th and 21st Congresses (1827-31). The latter volume is incorrectly titled "Committee Reports: Pensions and Rev. Claims, 18th-21st Congresses."

**6.36** The **petition and memorial** files provide evidence that a substantial amount of work was referred to the committee. The records from the committee's first session (1813-15) contain files on 57 petitions or memorials, and those of the 16th Congress (1819-21) contain 126 files. Many of the files contain not only the original petition or memorial referred to the committee, but also additional documentation that was submitted to substantiate the claim. An example is the claim of Griffith Jones, a Pennsylvania tanner, who in 1778 provided about 40 wagon loads of hides and leather to Col. Daniel Broadhead, an officer in the American Army. Mr. Jones' petition (14A-F9.1) asks that he be given relief even though the statute of limitations for filing such claims had run out. The papers in the file include: The original petition submitted to the House in 1807 and rejected, resubmitted in 1815 and again rejected; a report written by Mr. William Findley in 1794 relating to an earlier petition that was submitted by Mr. Jones; a report from the Auditor's office dated 1796 questioning the validity of the Jones claim; copies of vouchers dated 1778 from the Auditor's office; and several affidavits certifying that Jones claim was authentic and that he had attempted to file his claim before the statute of limitations had expired. Many of the files contain a wide variety of documentation dating from the revolutionary period.

**6.37** Examples from the 16th Congress (1819-21) show that some of the subjects of the petitions and memorials referred to the committee include: Jane Baker, the widow of Thomas Baker who had served in the Navy during the War of the Revolution, who prayed that his disability pension be paid to her; Jonathan Brown, who asked for a pension for services in the Army of the United States from the commencement of the war with Great Britain until the battle of Bridgewater near Niagara Falls on July 25, 1814, where he was wounded in the head and hand—injuries that led to a disability discharge; James Brown, a volunteer in a company raised at Sackets Harbor, NY, in May of 1813, who petitioned Congress to overrule a decision of the Secretary of War which had deprived him of a pension for the wounds he received because he had been regularly mustered into the service of the United States; and Mary Burbridge, who asked for funds that had been due her husband, Benjamin, who served as a wagon master in the sixth Virginia regiment from 1776 until he died in 1777, before he had been paid for his services (16A-G13.1). The original committee reports relating to these claims are filed in the committee papers (16A-D17.1).

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[10] *Annals of the Congress of the United States, Thirteenth Congress, First Session.* (Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1854) p. 796.

**6.38** Other claims referred to the committee included a request for a pension from George Bumgardner, who had been wounded during General Arthur St. Clair's ill-fated campaign in 1791 (14A-F9.1) and a plea from Newcomb Blodgett of Stratford, NH, to be placed on the pension list for his service fighting the Indians on the northern frontier. Blodgett stated that as a prisoner of war from 1779 until 1782 he had suffered "all the hardships and deprivations usually practiced on those who had the misfortune to fall into the hands of the British or Indians during the revolutionary war" (16A-G13.1).

**6.39** The **committee papers** consist almost entirely of the original committee reports on the petitions and memorials submitted by claimants. The reports are arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the claimant. In a few cases other documents are filed with the committee report. The committee papers are unusually complete and contain reports on most of the petitions and memorials that were referred to the committee.

## Committee on Military Pensions (1825-31)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.40** This committee was created in 1825 to handle part of the jurisdiction of the short-lived Committee on Revolutionary Pensions (December 9 to 12, 1825). The jurisdiction of the new Committee on Military Pensions included, "all such matters respecting pensions for military services, and also matters respecting invalid pensions."[11] In 1831 the Committee on Military Pensions was abolished and its duties split between two new committees, the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions and the Committee on Invalid Pensions.[12]

### *Records of the Committee on Military Pensions, 19th-21st Congresses (1825-31)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Docket Book | 1 vol. | 1825-31 | 19th-21st |
| Bound Reports | 1 vol. | 1825-39 | 19th-25th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 5 ft. | 1825-31 | 19th-21st |
| Comm. Papers | 1 in | 1825-31 | 19th-21st |
| TOTAL: | 6 ft. and 2 vol. (5 in.) | | |

**6.41** The **docket book** lists the petitions and memorials presented to the committee during its entire six-year existence. The entries are arranged by Congress, and thereunder alphabetically by name of petitioner. Each entry includes the name of the Representative who introduced the document, the date, the name of the petitioner, and remarks regarding disposition.

**6.42** A bound volume of transcribed committee **reports**, 19th-25th Congresses, contains the transcribed reports of the Committee on Military Pensions (1825-31) and of one of its successors, the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions (1831-39). The volume includes an alphabetical index to the names of the petitioners. The completeness of this volume is questionable, and it should be consulted along with the documents found in other records from this committee.

**6.43** The **petitions and memorials** are similar to other early 19th-century claims petitions discussed. For each Congress they are arranged in alphabetical order, and generally contain the original petition or memorial as well as assorted supporting documents.

**6.44** The bulk of the **committee papers** for each Congress consists of original committee reports on the petitions submitted by claimants, arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the claimant. Most of the committee reports address the merits of an individual petition, although an original report made on April 1, 1826, lists over 250 petitioners and summarily rejects all of them (19A-D13.1).

**6.45** Records relating to proposed legislation concerning the claims settlement process were referred to the committee. Examples of the draft legislation received by the committee include an 1826 act for the relief of the surviving officers of the Revolutionary Army and another from the same year for the extension of benefits under the Act of March 18, 1818, to include surviving officers from the 1775 expedition against Quebec (19A-D13.1).

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[11] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 20th Cong., 1st sess., Standing Rules and Orders, p. 1030.

[12] Microfiche #10969, p. 2.

## Committee on Invalid Pensions (1831-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.46** The committee was created on January 10, 1831, with jurisdiction over matters relating to pensions for disabled veterans. Originally, the jurisdiction of the committee included pensions from the War of 1812. The committee had become so overburdened with pensions from the Civil War that on March 26, 1867, jurisdiction for pensions from the War of 1812 was transferred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. Subsequently, jurisdiction of the Committee on Invalid Pensions included only matters relating to pensions of the Civil War, with the committee reporting general and special bills authorizing payments of pensions and bills for relief of soldiers of that war.

**6.47** In 1939 the jurisdiction of the committee was changed to include, "the pensions of all the wars of the United States and peace-time service, other than the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, Boxer Rebellion, and World War,"[13] while those pensions that fell in the excluded categories were tended to by the Committee on Pensions (see para. 6.65).

**6.48** The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred, in large part, to the executive agencies.

*Records of the Committee on Invalid Pensions, 21st-79th Congresses (1831-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 23 vols. | 1859-99, 1919-29<br>1931-33, 1935-46 | 36th-55th, 66th-70th<br>72d, 74th-79th |
| Docket Books | 172 vols. | 1831-43, 1845-47<br>1849-57, 1859-1925 | 22d-27th, 29th<br>31st-34th, 36th-68th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 52 ft. | 1831-69, 1871-1915<br>1921-23, 1925-27 | 22d-40th, 42d-63d<br>67th, 69th |
| Comm. Papers | 13 ft. | 1831-1946 | 22d-79th |
| Bill Files | 571 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |

TOTAL: 636 ft. and 195 vols. (33 ft.)

**6.49** The **minute books** document attendance at meetings, the reporting of subcommittees to the full committee, and occasionally the appearance of witnesses before the committee.

**6.50** The **docket books** provide access to information that might otherwise be very difficult to obtain. This is especially true for the period between the 39th and 55th Congresses when documents from this committee are intermixed with those from other committees in the accompanying papers files (see Chapter 24). During this period the docket books provide the names of claimants whose records were referred to the committee: names that can be searched in the alphabetical accompanying papers file.

**6.51** Before the 39th Congress (1865-67) the **petitions and memorials** came largely from individuals seeking pensions or private legislation to correct administrative problems. Between 1867 and 1901 the petitions and memorials that deal with private legislation were removed from the committee's petition and memorial files and incorporated into the general accompanying papers file. During this period the committee petition and memorial files contain primarily documents relating to the passage of public legislation relating to veteran's pensions. After 1901 the records relating to private claims are found in the bill files for each Congress.

**6.52** The subject of the administration of the pension laws and of the amounts of benefits provided was the subject of a constant flow of petitions. Citizens of Cape May, NJ supported passage of S. 496, 46th Cong., that would provide for the appointment of an attorney and a surgeon in each congressional district to speed up the adjudication of pension claims (46A-

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[13] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Seventy-Eighth Congress,* H. Doc. 812, 77th Cong., 2d sess., 1943, p. 319.

H11.1). The preamble to their petition summarizes the sorry state of affairs in 1880:

> Your memorialists respectfully represent that there are now three hundred thousand unsettled claims for pension, on account of disabilities or death incurred in the service. New claims are coming forward at the rate of fifteen hundred per month. The unsettled claims have been accumulating from 1862 to the present time. There are more than sixty-five thousand claims which have been pending five years and upwards, and thirty thousand which have been pending ten years. This fact alone is conclusive of the inadequacy of the present system of laws for the sacrifices they have made for the Union.

**6.53** One of the largest petition drives occurred during the 48th Congress (1883-85) when thousands of veterans and non-veterans alike voiced support for legislation that would provide a minimum $8.00 monthly pension for all honorably discharged Union soldiers (48A-H11.3, 2 ft.). Later petitioners (1907-11) sought passage of H.R. 7625, 60th Congress, that provided for a minimum $30 monthly pension for Civil War veterans (60A-H17.6), a dollar-a-day pension bill (61A-H14.4), and a "National Tribune" pension bill that provided for benefits graduated according to age (61A-H14.3).

**6.54** Other subjects of petitions included legislation to provide pensions for special classes of veterans such as maimed soldiers (62A-H15.3), ex-prisoners (47A-H10.2, 49A-H10.5, 62A-H15.2), Army nurse volunteers (51A-H10.1, 61A-H14.1), amputees (46A-H11.2), and widows of soldiers in various wars (40A-H9.1, 45A-H17.1).

**6.55** The **committee papers** files are generally sparse. During the earliest years they consist mainly of original manuscript copies of committee reports on private legislation. After about 1865 these files no longer contain the original reports, but may contain miscellaneous correspondence, reports, or other documents. Examples of committee papers from the 1870's include: A report from the Pension Office on the cause of delay in adjudicating the claims of black veterans from Mississippi (44A-F18.1); a report on the adequacy of the pay of U.S. pension agents (45A-F17.5); copies of various public bills and resolutions referred to the committee (42A-F13.1, 43A-F13.1); and letterpress copies of outgoing committee correspondence, 1879-82 (46A-F17.3). Small correspondence files exist for each Congress between 1919 and 1929.

**6.56** The **bill files** provide evidence of the massive workload that this committee handled. They average over 25 ft. per Congress, the largest collection being those from 1927-29 (70A-D14, 61 ft.). The massive workload during that session, 1927-29, is described in an unpublished summary of the committee's history and recent activities:

> The House broke an alltime record for the number of bills referred to a committee in a single day, when on the opening day of the 70th Congress 3775 private bills were referred to this committee. During the Congress, the committee reported the largest omnibus pension bill, which incidently, according to the report of the Public Printer, was the largest bill ever printed during any Congress. The bill contained 518 pages embracing 2935 private bills. During this Congress the committee considered over 9000 private bills, approximately 51% of all the bills, public and private, introduced in the House and Senate combined. (72A-F16.2)

**6.57** The bill files for each Congress are arranged so that public bills and resolutions and the large omnibus private bills are filed in numerical order by bill or resolution number, and the individual private claims are filed in alphabetical order by name of claimant.

**6.58** Among the private claim files are numerous forms, letters, and other documents that contain genealogical information. Preprinted forms obtained from the committee, the Veterans Administration, Pension Bureau or other Governmental agencies include: "Soldier's Affadivit," "Physician's Affidavit," "Widow's Affidavit" or "Widow's Petition," "Affadivit as to Applicant's Financial Condition," and, "Record of a Death"—a form that occasionally is accompanied by a photograph of a tombstone as supportive evidence. Other records found in these files include proofs of military service and discharge status, marriage records, notarized letters, sworn statements, and oaths attesting to a variety of conditions that qualify the claimant to benefits. These files also contain documents generated during appeals: committee bills and reports, and correspondence from the War Department, Veterans Administration, or other executive department. The 1940 claim of Timothy A. Linehan (76A-D19) even contains the veto message signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

## Committee on Revolutionary Pensions (1831-80)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.59** This committee was created on January 10, 1831 to administer that part of the jurisdiction of the defunct Committee on Military Pensions (1825-31) that included all "matters respecting pensions for services in the Revolutionary War, other than invalid pensions."[14] In 1867, in order to reduce the workload of the Invalid Pensions Committee, the committee's jurisdiction was expanded to include the pension matters of soldiers who fought in the War of 1812.

**6.60** The committee was abolished in 1880 and the subjects in its jurisdiction referred to the Committee on Pensions that was created in that year.

*Records of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, 21st-46th Congresses (1831-80)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 2 vols. | 1873-81 | 43d-46th |
| Docket Books | 14 vols. | 1831-47, 1849-53<br>1855-61, 1865-81 | 22d-29th, 31st-32d<br>34th-36th, 39th-46th |
| Bound Reports | 1 vol. | 1831-39 | 21st-25th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 19 ft. | 1831-79 | 22d-45th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1831-63, 1871-75<br>1877-79 | 22d-37th, 42d-43d<br>45th |

TOTAL: 22 ft. and 16 vols. (2 ft.)

**6.61** **Docket books** record the petitions, memorials, legislation, and other records referred to the committee during most of its history, while **minute books** document only the last years of its existence. The last minute book contains the minutes of the Committee on Pensions for the 47th and 48th Congress (1881-85) as well as those of the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions for the 45th and 46th Congresses (1877-81). The last docket book also contains entries for the Pensions Committee for the 47th Congress. The early transcribed reports from this committee, 1831-39, are bound together with those of its predecessor, the Military Pensions Committee (see para. 6.45) in a volume titled "Reports: Committees on Military Pensions, Revolutionary Pensions, 19th Congress, 1st session to 25th Congress, 3d session."

**6.62** Like the mid-19th century records of the other claims committees, the **petition and memorial** files of this committee contain the original petitions of the claimants, and the **committee papers** files consist primarily of original committee reports on individual private claims. In many cases the petition and memorial files contain additional documentation submitted along with the petition or memorial as proof of the claim. When conducting a search for records relating to the claim of a specific individual both series should be searched because in some cases the original petition, memorial, or associated documentation is filed along with the committee report. The committee papers and the petitions and memorials are arranged in alphabetical order by name of the claimant.

**6.63** The records from the period after the Civil War contain petitions and memorials favoring the passage of public legislation to provide for better benefits for special classes of pensioners. By 1870 many of the veterans of the War of 1812 were dead and those who were alive averaged 70 years of age. Increased benefits and more liberal qualifications for the veterans of that war, as well as for their widows, was the subject of many petitions (39A-H22.1, 40A-HK16.1, 41A-H13.1, 42A-H14.1, 45A-H22.1). A letter from H. H. Horner found in the committee papers (42A-F27.1) clearly identifies one of the problems arising from the narrowly defined qualifications of the existing legislation:

> Lebanon, Ill. Jan. 30, 1872
>
> Dear Sir, In the western states in the war of 1812 a great many of our Soldiers were under twenty years of age, and in fact every boy old enough to carry a musket was in the service. The great majority of the western soldiers were unmarried when the treaty of peace was made in 1814. A great many widows survive these soldiers and quite a number reside in our state, but under the pension law approved by Congress March 14, 1871, these widows can not avail themselves of the benefit of this law because their marriages do not date quite soon enough. At the request of the widows residing in this vicinity I write to you to get you to use your influence to have the above named pension law so amended that the soldiers widow can avail herself of this law regardless of the time of her marriage.

## Committee on Pensions (1880-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.64** The committee was created in 1880 with jurisdiction over subjects relating to the pensions of all the wars of the United States other than the Civil War. It replaced the old Committee on Revolutionary

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[14] Microfiche #10969, p. 2.

Pensions. The appropriations authorized by this committee were reported by the Committee on Appropriations rather than by the Pensions Committee.

**6.65** On Jan. 3, 1939 the jurisdiction of the committee was rewritten to include the pensions of the Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection, and Boxer Rebellion, while all other pension legislation was referred to the Committee on Invalid Pensions.[15] The committee was abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and its jurisdiction transferred, for the most part, to executive agencies.

***Records of the Committee on Pensions, 46th-79th Congresses (1880-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 16 vols. | 1880-97, 1901-7<br>1911-13, 1935-46 | 46th-54th, 57th-59th<br>62d, 74th-79th |
| Docket Books | 29 vols. | 1880-1915 | 46th-63d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 12 ft. | 1881-85, 1905-17<br>1925-27, 1935-36<br>1939-46 | 47th-48th, 59th-64th<br>69th, 74th<br>76th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1881-1917, 1925-29<br>1931-33, 1935-46 | 47th-64th, 69th-70th<br>72d, 74th-79th |
| Bill Files | 125 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |

TOTAL: 140 ft. and 45 vols. (8 ft.)

**6.66** The earliest **minutes and docket** are bound together with those for the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions (see para. 6.61). The minutes for the 1935-46 period are unbound and are filed along with the committee papers.

**6.67** Most of the **petition and memorial** files are sparse—less than ½ inch per Congress. Exceptions are the 48th Congress (1901-3) when the committee received the results of a petition drive supporting the Mexican Pension Bill (48A-H22.1, 9 ft.) and the 62d Congress (1911-13) when it received 2 feet of petitions supporting passage of a bill providing pensions for men and women over the age of 60 (62A-H23.1).

**6.68** The **committee papers** are also thin, containing documents relating to various claims, copies of bills and resolutions, receipts for case files loaned to the committee by the Veterans Administration, compilations of State laws relating to veterans, and small collections of correspondence.

**6.69** The bulk of the committee's records are the **bill files** from the 58th-79th Congresses (1903-46). As with the other claims committees, the private claims for the years before 1903 are filed in the accompanying papers files.

**6.70** The bill files are arranged alphabetically by name of claimant, and they usually contain the following: the petition submitted by the claimant, the bill proposing his or her relief, soldier's or widow's affidavits, correspondence with the Bureau of Pensions, medical reports and other notarized affidavits, and charge cards indicating records loaned to the committee from the Pension Bureau. Some of these records provide rare insights into the personal lives of individuals and the conditions in which they lived. The case of William Garnett (alias Billie Hunter) is a case in point.

**6.71** William Garnett was a scout, guide, interpreter and spy for the U.S. Army from October 1876 until September 1877. He was honorably discharged in 1877, but his 1920 claim for a pension was rejected because the records of the War Department indicated that he had not been enlisted in the United States military service, but had been a civilian employed as a scout.

**6.72** Garnett's file (67A-D26) contains a wealth of documentation to prove that he "always took an active part in all the fighting" even though he was carried on the rolls as an interpreter and not pensionable. He was the half-blood son of Brigadier General R.B. Garnett and an Oglala Sioux woman named Looks-at-Him or Mollie Campbell. He fought in campaigns against the Sioux under Chiefs Red Cloud and Red Leaf, and the Cheyennes under Chiefs Dull Knife and Little Wolf and played an active roll in several other battles. His file contains supporting documents from Indians, soldiers, and Interior Department bureaucrats attesting to his activities. Among those who contributed letters and depositions are J.D. Corder, an Indian trader and dealer in general merchandise; Indians named Lone Dog, Dirt Kettle, Red Shirt, Kills A Hundred, and Painted Horse; the superintendent of the Pine Ridge Indian Agency; and various other officials involved in the administration of the Pine Ridge Agency.

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[15] *Ibid.*, p. 2.

## Committee on Revolutionary Claims (1825-73)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.73** This committee was created in 1825 to handle part of the jurisdiction of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims which had been abolished.[16] The committee had jurisdiction over:

> all such petitions and matters or things touching on claims or demands originating in the Revolutionary War or arising therefrom, as shall be presented, or shall or may come in question and be referred to them by the House; and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief as to them shall seem expedient.[17]

**6.74** The jurisdiction of the committee remained unchanged until the committee was abolished in 1873 and its jurisdiction assigned to the Committee on War Claims that was created in that year.

### *Records of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, 19th-42d Congresses (1825-73)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 1 vol. | 1861-65 | 37th-38th |
| Docket Books | 11 vols. | 1825-45, 1847-65<br>1871-73 | 19th-28th, 30th-38th<br>42d |
| Bound Reports | 1 vol. | 1825-31 | 19th-21st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 13 ft. | 1827-65 | 20th-38th |
| Comm. Papers | 5 ft. | 1827-65 | 20th-38th |
| TOTAL: | 18 ft. and 13 vols. (1 ft.) | | |

**6.75** **Docket books** document the petitions, memorials, legislation and other materials referred to the committee over almost its entire history. Some of the volumes include the dockets from several Congresses, and one volume contains the **minutes** as well as the dockets for both the 37th and 38th Congresses (1861-65). The transcribed **reports** of this committee from 1825 through 1831 are bound together with those of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims from 1823 to 1825 in a volume incorrectly titled "Committee Reports Pensions and Rev. Claims, 18th-21st Congresses."

**6.76** Like the mid-19th century records of the other claims committees, the **petition and memorial** files contain the petitions presenting the claims, and the **committee papers** files consist primarily of original committee reports on the claims. In many cases the petition and memorial files contain additional documentation submitted along with the petition or memorial as proof of the claim. Many of these files contain Revolutionary War certificates of service that were submitted along with the petition or memorial in order to prove service dates or rank.

**6.77** When conducting a search for records relating to the claim of a specific individual both series of records should be searched because in some cases the original petition, memorial, or associated documentation is filed along with the committee report. Both series are arranged in alphabetical order by name of claimant. There are no documents concerning private bills for this committee after the 38th Congress (1863-65) because the case files for private claims were filed in the accompanying papers file rather than as records of the committee.

**6.78** Almost all of the committee reports found in the committee papers are reports on private bills or on the petitions of individuals for private relief. An exception to this is a 300-page handwritten committee report prepared in 1840 in compliance with a resolution instructing the committee "to inquire into the character and amounts of proof which is required by existing laws & regulations to establish claims on the United States for revolutionary services in the Virginia Continental & State lines" (26A-D25.2).

## Committee on War Claims (1873-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.79** The Committee on War Claims was created in 1873 when the name of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims (1825-73) was changed to the Committee on War Claims and its jurisdiction expanded to include "claims arising from any war in which the United States has been engaged."[18]

**6.80** The jurisdiction of the committee included claims arising from Indian hostilities such as the 1890's Indian war claims from the States of Oregon,

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[16] *Ibid.*, p. 1. It is possible to argue that the Committee on Revolutionary Claims is the direct descendant of the Committee on Pensions and Revolutionary Claims, and that the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions was created anew in 1825. The analysis in this *Guide* is concerned mainly with the genealogy of the jurisdictions of committees, and for that reason we emphasize the jurisdictional split that produced the two committees, rather than other factors (such as chairmanship roles) that might suggest that one or the other descended directly from the parent committee.

[17] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 2d sess., p. 485 (rule 64).

[18] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Seventy-Eighth Congress*, H. Doc. 812, 77th Cong., 2d sess., 1943, p. 320.

Idaho, and Washington. It also covered claims for property seized for use by the U.S. Army and Navy from citizens in the Southern States who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War. The major collection of records relating to these claims are those of the Southern Claims Commission, which are discussed in paragraphs 6.90 through 6.95.

**6.81** Although most of the work of the committee involved reporting private legislation for the settlement of claims of individuals and corporations, on occasion it reported on the war claims of States and Territories against the United States. It also reported general legislation that provided for the adjudication of certain classes of claims.

**6.82** This committee, like the Claims Committee, had authority to report bills making appropriations for the payment of the obligations within its jurisdiction.

**6.83** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction transferred to the Judiciary Committee and executive agencies.

***Records of the Committee on War Claims, 43d-79th Congresses (1873-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 1 vols. | 1871-73 | 42d |
| Docket Books | 22 vols. | 1857-65 | 43d-47th, 49th-50th<br>52d, 74th-75th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 ft. | 1875-89, 1903-5 | 44th-50th, 58th |
| Comm. Papers | 5 ft. | 1871-79, 1889-93<br>1895-97, 1907-09<br>1911-15 | 42d-45th, 51st-52d<br>54th, 60th<br>62d-63d |
| Bill Files | 35 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |
| S. Claims Comm. Case Files | 180 ft. | 1871-80 | 42d-46th |

TOTAL: 222 ft. and 23 vols. (2 ft.)

**6.84** Despite the relative longevity of this committee the **petition and memorial** files are scanty. This is because the petitions submitting private claims were filed in other series during the entire life of the committee. From the creation of the committee in 1873 until the end of the 57th Congress (1903), the petitions submitting private claims were filed under the name of the claimant in the accompanying papers file (see Chapter 24) along with other records relating to the claim. From 1903 until the termination of the committee in 1946, the petitions submitting private claims were filed under the name of the claimant in the committee's bill files along with other documentation related to the bill generated by the claim.

**6.85** The petitions and memorials include several interesting files. Examples are the disallowed Southern Claims Commission claim of David R. Godwin for commodities furnished to the Union forces during the occupation of New Orleans (45A-H24.1); and, fifty-five petitions filed by various residents of Paducah, Kentucky, for damages incurred during the Union occupation during the winter of 1864 (50A-H29.1).

**6.86** The **committee papers** contain the original reports of the Commissioners of Claims (Southern Claims Commission) as well as certain claims files that would be expected to appear among the disallowed case files of the Southern Claims Commission (see para. 6.94). The claims of David R. Dillon, captain of the Steamer *Amazon* on the Savannah River, and of Isaac Bloom, a merchant in Jackson, MS, are examples of petitioners whose claims, after being disallowed by the Commissioners, were filed among the War Claims committee papers (43A-F29.2) and remained there.

**6.87** Genealogical information in these records is the most common attraction for researchers, but since many of the claims referred to this committee were from States, city governments, churches, and other organizations such as steamship lines and real estate companies, the records may offer rare insights into the important events of American history. An example of this is the file on H.R. 14529, 63d Cong. (63A-F38.1), a 1914 bill to compensate the Ursuline Order of Nuns for the destruction of their convent when much of Columbia, SC, was burned following the occupation of the city by Union soldiers in 1865. The file contains several accounts of the fire: a pamphlet by Dr. D.H. Trezevant entitled "The Burning of Columbia, S.C.: A Review of Northern Assertions and Southern Facts" printed by the South Carolinian Power Press in 1866; 18 signed affidavits; a 59-page paper "The Columbia Phoenix" written and published by Julian A. Shelby in 1865; and clippings from several contemporary newspapers.

**6.88** Most of the bills and resolutions referred to the committee were for private legislation. The private **bill files** are arranged in alphabetical order by name of claimant, and the public bill files are usually filed together at the beginning or end of the series of private bill files. The bill files often contain legislation for the relief of political and legal entities such as H.R. 9313 for the relief of the State of Minnesota, which sought compensation for expenses incurred in mobilizing its National Guard pursuant to the call of the President in 1916 and 1917 (65A-D20).

**6.89** Another example is the file for H.R. 7647, 59th Cong., a bill to provide relief to the organization of free blacks known as the Black Brigade which was mustered out of Cincinnati, OH in 1862 to perform labor in the construction of fortifications and military roads, and to serve as guards (59A-D29). The file consists of a small quantity of correspondence and a pamphlet containing printed versions of muster rolls, orders, and other documents relating to the brigade. The pamphlet recounts the miserable circumstances under which the members of the Black Brigade, "the first organization of the colored people of the North actually employed for military purposes," served.

### *Related Records*

**6.90** The Southern Claims Commission was established in 1871 to settle the claims of Southerners who remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War.[19] Because a number of different governmental offices were involved in the settlement process, the records of the Commission are divided among several record groups. The barred and disallowed case files are part of RG 233, Records of the United States House of Representatives. The case files for the allowed claims are in RG 217, Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury. They are arranged alphabetically by State, and thereunder by county, and thereunder by surname. The administrative records and correspondence files of the Commission are among the General Records of the Department of the Treasury, RG 56. The Bowman Act of 1883 and the Tucker Act of 1887 provided for further adjudication of some disallowed cases by the Court of Claims. Records relating to those cases may be found in RG 123, Records of the United States Court of Claims and RG 205, Records of the Court of Claims Section (Justice).

**6.91** Even before the close of the Civil War, Congress had provided for the payment of the debt the Federal Government owed to loyal citizens for property losses during the Civil War. The Act of July 4, 1864 applied only to those citizens in States not in rebellion. Not until 1871 did Congress pass legislation to provide remedy for the losses of the loyal Southern Unionists. The Act of March 3, 1871 provided for a special board of commissioners:

> to receive, examine, and consider the justice and validity of such claims as shall be brought before them, of those citizens who remained loyal adherents to the cause and the government of the United States during the war, for stores or supplies taken or furnished during the rebellion for the use of the army (later amended to include the navy) of the United States in States proclaimed as in insurrection against the United States.

By an Act of May 11, 1872, the jurisdiction of the Commission was extended to "stores or supplies taken or furnished during the rebellion for the use of the Navy of the United States."

**6.92** The Commissioners of Claims had no final jurisdiction in the cases they considered, but were required to report their decisions, sending along the completed case files in annual increments to Congress for appropriate action. Congress retained the barred and disallowed claims, appropriated the funds to pay those allowed, and sent the allowed case files to the Treasury Department for settlement and custody.

**6.93** The claims submitted to the Southern Claims Commission are listed in alphabetical order by name of claimant in the *Consolidated Index of Claims Reported by the Commissioners of Claims to the House of Representatives from 1871 to 1880*, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1892), compiled under the supervision of J.B. Holloway and Walter H. French.[20] A total of 22,298 claims seeking more than $60 million in damages were submitted to the Commissioners of Claims under the Act of March 3, 1871. The Commissioners barred 5,250 of the claims, authorized payment of $4,636,229.75 in claims, and disallowed over $55 million.

**6.94** The **barred and disallowed** case files of the Southern Claims Commission are maintained as a collection separate from the other committee papers of the Committee on War Claims. The Commission reported to Congress at the opening of each session from 1871 through 1880, a total of 10 reports identified numerically 1 through 10. The disallowed case files are arranged by report number (called "report number") and thereunder by docket number within the report (called the "office"). Barred case files are arranged in alphabetical order by name of claimant.

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[19] See Frank W. Klingberg, *The Southern Claims Commission*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1951).

[20] This 262 page index and the Commissioner's administrative and correspondence files are reproduced on microfilm on National Archives Microfilm Publication M87, "Records of the Commissioners of Claims (Southern Claims Commission) 1871-1880." The index is also available on microfiche on National Archives Microform Publication M1407, "Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission 1871-1880." Another useful index is Gary B. Mills compilation, *Civil War Claims in the South: An Index of Civil War damage filed before the Southern Claims Commissions, 1871-1880* (Laguan Hills, CA: Aegean Park Press, 1980) which lists claimants by State and thereunder alphabetically by name.

**6.95** These records contain valuable genealogical information and are among the most heavily researched of all House records. A typical case file contains the following types of records: a form petition; an application to have testimony taken by a special commissioner; a deposition or testimony of the claimant or a witness; summary report of the Commissioners of Claims; and miscellaneous other papers such as oaths, memoranda and evidential documents. These give information regarding the claimant, the circumstances of the purchase or seizure of goods, and the value of each item.

## Committee on Private Land Claims (1816-1911)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**6.96** The committee was established on April 29, 1816, on the motion of Thomas B. Robertson of Louisiana, with jurisdiction over matters relating to private land claims. The committee reported general as well as special legislation relating to the settlement of individual claims to public lands. It has reported bills to establish a land court and to provide for the judicial investigation and settlement of private land claims in certain States and Territories. The committee was abolished in 1911 along with several other committees that had suffered from diminished legislative activity.

*Records of the Committee on Private Land Claims, 14th-62d Congresses (1816-1911)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 16 vols. | 1875-1911 | 44th-61st |
| Docket Books | 28 vols. | 1835-43, 1855-1911 | 24th-27th, 34th-61st |
| Bound Reports | 1 vol. | 1815-33 | 14th-22d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 9 ft. | 1815-65, 1871-73<br>1885-89, 1903-7 | 14th-38th, 42d<br>49th-50th, 58th-59th |
| Comm. Papers | 7 ft. | 1815-63, 1873-83<br>1899-1901, 1905-11 | 14th-37th, 43d-47th<br>56th, 59th-61st |
| Bill Files | 6 in. | 1903-11 | 58th-61st |
| TOTAL: 17 ft. and 44 vols. (4 ft.) | | | |

**6.97** **Minute books** document the attendance, order of business, referral of papers to subcommittees, and the subjects of discussion at committee meetings. The **docket books** list, in chronological order, the receipt and disposition of petitions, memorials, bills and resolutions, and executive communications. One bound volume of transcribed committee **reports** from 1815 to 1833 documents early committee work.

**6.98** The **petition and memorial** files before the 39th Congress (1865-67) contain original petitions and memorials along with supporting documents. The petitions and memorials are arranged alphabetically by name of the claimant. In some cases the claimants from particular geographical areas were grouped together and relief measures were indexed under the name of the State, Territory or city. Many of the petitions included supplemental documentation offered in support of the claim. After the 37th Congress (1861-63) the petition and memorial files are almost non-existent: the documents having been filed in the accompanying papers file from 1865 to 1905 and after that date in the committee bill files. The major exception to this is a group of petitions to confirm patents issued by the Governor of the Colony of New York in 1666-67 for lands on and adjacent to Manhattan Island (49A-H19.1, 3 in.).

**6.99** The **committee papers** from 1816 through 1863 consist almost entirely of the original committee reports. Most of the committee reports are on private claims and are arranged in alphabetical order by name of claimant. In a few cases groups of reports relating to claims in particular geographical areas are filed together, such as claims for lands in Louisiana (35A-D17.2), Missouri (35A-D17.3), and New Mexico (35A-D17.4). Other geographical categories in the committee papers are land claims between the Perdido and Mississippi Rivers (25A-D19.2) and claims handled at the land office in Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana (27A-D16.2).

**6.100** After the 37th Congress (1863) the committee papers files are spotty because most of the records relating to private claims are filed in the accompanying papers file. The only sizable collections of committee papers after this period are those in the 43d through 47th Congresses (1873-83) relating to individual claims in several geographical areas: Louisiana claims (43A-F22.1) and New Mexico Territory claims (43A-F22.1); the claim of the Mission of St. James, Vancouver, Washington Territory and the Santillion Grant in California (44A-F28.1); New Mexico and Arizona claims such as the Pueblo of Zuni Grant and the Uno de Gato Grant (46A-F28.1), the Rancho San Ignacio de la Canoa (47A-F23.1); and the John Rice Jones' claims in the State of Illinois (45A-F27.1).

**6.101** These claim files sometimes contain a substantial amount of legal arguments and evidence, including documentation of the origin of the claim, examination of claims and townsites, maps, testimony, notarized affidavits, decisions of the General Land Office, decisions of the Surveyor General, and, copies of House and Senate bills, committee reports, and printed documents.

**6.102** Some of these private land claims involved enormously valuable parcels of land, and the claimants invested heavily in attempting to prove their claims. The New Madrid Grant of Jacques Clamorgan is an example of an arduously fought battle. Clamorgan received grants for 536,904 arpens and 448,000 arpens of land in the Louisiana Territory from the Spanish Government in 1796 and 1797, respectively. He claimed that the treaties with Spain and France in 1800 and 1803 provided protection for the lands granted him under the previous government, but his claims were never satisfied. He and his heirs petitioned Congress at least 17 times between 1817 and 1911 (59A-H22.1), but the claim was still unsettled at the end of the 61st Congress.

**6.103** There are thin **bill files** for the 58th through 61st Congresses, but by this time the workload of the committee had deteriorated substantially. The bill files consist of little more than printed copies of the bills and resolutions.

## Committee on the Judiciary (1813-1968)

### *History and Jurisdiction Relative to Claims*

**6.104** Since its creation in 1813 the Judiciary Committee (see Chapter 14) has handled a wide variety of claims against the Government. There are substantial numbers of claims petitions among the records of every Congress before the Civil War, and lesser numbers from that time until World War II. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, while the specialized claims committees were created to handle particular types of claims, the Judiciary Committee continued to deal with those claims that fell within its jurisdiction.

**6.105** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the specialized claims committees that were in existence at that time were abolished and the claims that had been referred to them were to be referred to the Judiciary Committee or were dealt with by the executive agencies or the courts. Under the 1946 reorganization the already broad jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee was expanded to include the subjects that had formerly been referred to the Committees on Patents, Immigration and Naturalization, Revision of Laws, Claims, and War Claims. In order to accommodate the broadened area of responsibility, the committee established standing subcommittees with specialized jurisdictions to deal with the new subject areas. During the early years after the 1946 reorganization, special jurisdiction over claims was given to subcommittee number 3.

### *Primary Locations of Claims Records of the Committee on the Judiciary, 13th-90th Congresses (1813-1968)*

**6.106** During the earliest period of the committee's history (1813-65) the records relating to claims are found primarily among the **petition and memorial** files. Between the 39th and 57th Congresses (1865-1903) the Judiciary Committee claims files may be found in either the **committee papers** or the petitions and memorials files, but in most cases they were removed from the records of the Judiciary Committee and included in the large alphabetical accompanying papers files (see Chapter 24). After the 57th Congress the accompanying papers file was abandoned and each committee established a series of **bill files** in which the records relating to each specific bill or resolution was filed. After 1903 most of the claims related records may be found in the bill files. The bill files for this period are arranged numerically by bill number.

**6.107** After the 1946 reorganization greatly increased the workload of the Judiciary Committee, the committee's bill files are arranged in three categories to facilitate access by the subcommittees charged with the three major types of bills handled by the committee: public bills, immigration bills, and claims bills. This separation into categories facilitates research in these massive bill collections. There were, for example, 228 feet of bill files in the 84th Congress (1955-56) covering 1,214 public bills, 2,847 immigration and naturalization bills, and 966 claims bills.

**6.108** After 1947 the claims **bill files** of the Judiciary Committee are arranged separately from the public bill files and the immigration and naturalization bill files. The claims bill files are arranged alphabetically by name of claimant. There are 242 feet of claims bill files for the 80th through 90th Congresses (1947-68). An aid to research in these records is the Judiciary Committee calendars which list the private claims bills separately from the immigration and naturalization bills, and the public bills.

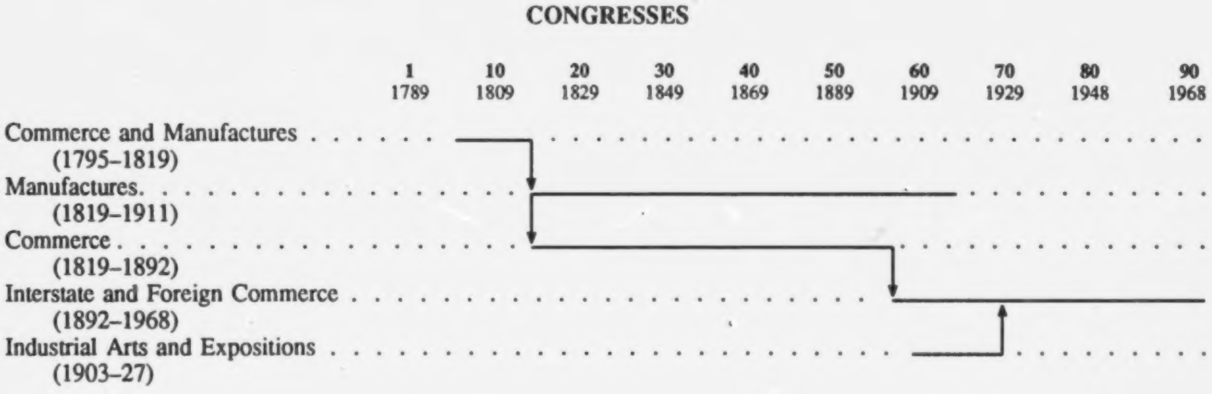
**6.109** The table below shows the Judiciary Committee record series in which claims records will most likely be found during each period of the committee's existance.

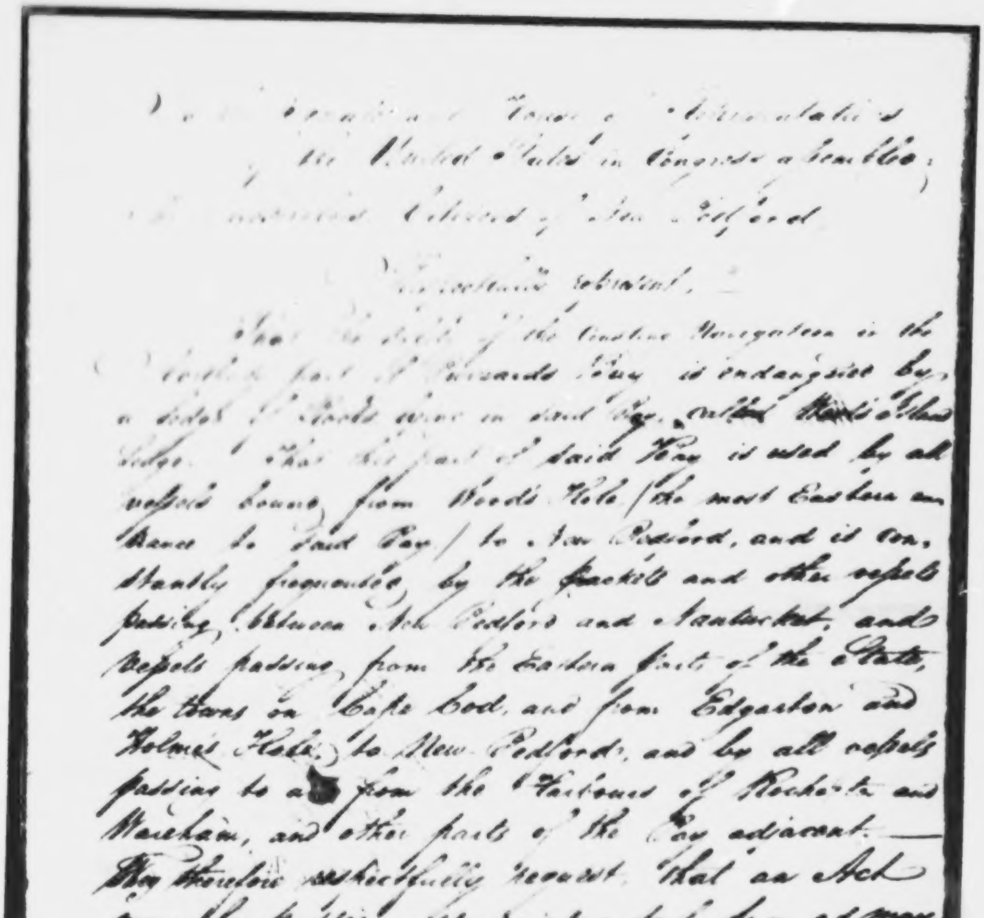
***Where to look for claims petitions that were referred to the Judiciary Committee***

| Dates | Congresses | Primary Location of Claims Records |
|---|---|---|
| 1813-1865 | 13th-38th | Petitions and Memorials |
| 1865-1903 | 39th-58th | Accompanying Papers |
| 1903-1946 | 59th-79th | Bill Files, general |
| 1947-1968 | 80th-90th | Bill Files, Claims Subcommittee |

# Chapter 7

# RECORDS OF THE COMMERCE COMMITTEES





To the Senate and House of Representatives
of the United States in Congress assembled;
The Memorial of the Citizens of New Bedford

Respectfully represent,

That the safety of the Coasting Navigation in the Northerly part of Buzzards Bay is endangered by a ledge of Rocks in said Bay, called [illegible] Island Ledge. That this part of said Bay is used by all vessels bound from Woods Hole (the most Eastern entrance to said Bay) to New Bedford, and is constantly frequented by the packets and other vessels passing between New Bedford and Nantucket, and vessels passing from the Eastern parts of the State, the towns on Cape Cod, and from Edgarton and Holmes Hole, to New Bedford, and by all vessels passing to and from the Harbours of Rochester and Wareham, and other parts of the Bay adjacent.— They therefore respectfully request that an Act may be passed appropriating such sum as may be necessary for placing and maintaining a suitable Buoy, to be placed on said Ledge.

They also respectfully represent That there are four other Ledges Rocks or Shoals in the Northerly part of Buzzards Bay, dangerous to the Ship Navigation as will appear from a Plan herewith presented — and they submit to the consideration of Congress the propriety of such further appropriation as may be sufficient to defray the expense of placing Buoys thereon.

New Bedford Massachusetts 2 month ([illegible]) 9. 1819.

The elegant handwriting on this 1819 petition from citizens of New Bedford, MA, has bled through the paper at several points making the document difficult to read and even more difficult to reproduce. (15A-G2.1)

# CHAPTER 7

# RECORDS OF THE COMMERCE COMMITTEES

## Introduction

**7.1** The Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, established on December 1, 1795, was one of the earliest standing committees of the House of Representatives. Since that time, the House has always had a standing committee whose primary area of jurisdiction is commerce, though three different titles have been used to designate the committee. This chapter reviews the records of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures and its successor committees, as well as the records of a related committee, the Committee on Industrial Arts and Expositions.

## Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**7.2** The standing Committee on Commerce and Maufactures was created in 1795 to "take into consideration all such petitions and matters of things touching the commerce and manufactures of the United States, as shall be presented, or shall or may come into question, and be referred to them by the House, and to report their opinion thereupon, together with such propositions for relief therein, as to them shall be expedient."[1] In 1819 the committee was divided to form the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Manufactures.

***Records of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, 4th-15th Congresses (1795-1819)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 ft. | 1797-1819 | 5th-15th |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1803-1819 | 8th-15th |
| TOTAL: | 5 ft. | | |

**7.3** The **petitions and memorials** referred to the committee cover a wide variety of topics. There are a large number of petitions concerning import duties. Manufacturers, merchants, and other citizens from many areas of the country petitioned Congress for duty increases on dozens of imported products such as hats (7A-F2.2, 11A-F2.3, 11A-F2.4, 14A-F2.11), shot (6A-F2.2, 11A-F2.3, 12A-F2.2, 15A-G2.4), paper (7A-F2.2, 11A-F2.3), and cork (7A-F2.2, 8A-F2.1, 15A-G2.4). Records of the 15th Congress (1817-19) contain the largest number of petitions relating to duties from a single Congress (15A-G2.4).

**7.4** Other petitioners requested relief from paying duties on certain goods. Merchants and ship owners, for example, requested that Congress not require payment of duties on goods damaged in shipment or destroyed by fire before they were sold (7A-F2.2, 8A-F2.1, 14A-F2.8). Petitions were also referred from non-profit and educational institutions, such as the Library Company of Baltimore, the Associate Reformed Church in North America, the Saint Andrews Society of Charleston, and the Pennsylvania Hospital, asking for exemptions from paying duties on books or articles imported for their use (6A-F2.2, 8A-F2.1, 15A-G2.2). John Redman Coxe, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania, petitioned in 1815 for a refund of duties he had been required to pay for imported materials necessary for his chemistry classes (14A-F2.11).

**7.5** Requests for drawbacks, refunds authorized when imported goods on which duties had been paid were re-exported, were referred to the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures during nearly every Congress. Many of the petitions were received from merchants and others who had been denied drawbacks for a variety of reasons. Merchants in Philadelphia, for example, asked for a drawback on a shipment of sugar that had been destroyed before it left the port, while other petitioners, denied drawbacks because of late filing of their requests, sought relief from Congress and gave a number of reasons for the late filing, citing outbreaks of yellow fever and the receipt of incorrect information from port officials (8A-F2.1, 9A-F2.2, 11A-F2.3).

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[1] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 3d and 4th Congresses, Dec. 14, 1795, p. 376.

**7.6** The Committee on Commerce and Manufactures received petitions requesting the creation of new ports of entry and ports of delivery during nearly every Congress. Petitioners often complained that traveling great distances to the nearest port of entry was difficult, especially in bad weather. Most requests were not controversial, but there were a few cases of disagreement among petitioners. In 1800, Petersburg and Richmond, VA submitted rival petitions for a collector's office (6A-F2.4). Factions within Stonington, CT, submitted petitions in 1806 both favoring and opposing a port of entry in that town (9A-F2.4).

**7.7** Petitions from a number of States requested that Congress appropriate funds to construct or maintain aids to navigation such as lighthouses, buoys, and piers. The town of New Bedford, MA, in 1800, asked that the United States purchase and maintain the lighthouse they had constructed by private subscription a few years before in order to protect the shipping in the area (6A-F2.1). The majority of petitions, however, asked for funds with which to build new lighthouses. Several towns, most in New England, wrote of the dangers to commerce and the need for lighthouses to prevent the great loss of life and property then taking place (7A-F2.1, 9A-F2.1, 11A-F2.1, 15A-G2.1). One of the few petitions from outside New England was from the legislature of Louisiana and requested a lighthouse at the mouth of the Mississippi River (14A-F2.4).

**7.8** The committee was also involved in matters of compensation for customshouse workers. Requests for increased pay and higher fees were received from weighers and measurers (6A-F2.3, 7A-F2.4, 12A-F2.7), collectors of customs (6A-F2.4), inspectors (10A-F3.6, 11A-F2.3), and surveyors (11A-F2.8).

**7.9** The **committee papers** consist almost exclusively of committee reports on the petitions and memorials referred to the committee and covering a wide variety of topics. Most of the reports begin with a restatement of the prayer of the petitioner, continue with a presentation of facts gathered by the committee, and conclude with a recommendation and suggested resolution. In general, reports concerning increased duties on books (8A-C2.1), paint and copper (10A-C2.1), salt and hats (11A-C3.1), and other products (15A-D2.1) offer little explanation of the committee's recommendations. Reports responding to petitions requesting drawbacks or refunds of duties paid, however, more often explain the reasoning behind the committee's decisions. Those merchants, manufacturers, and others praying for drawbacks on damaged goods or goods shipped past the deadline for receiving drawbacks were regularly denied their requests (8A-C2.1, 9A-C2.1, 13A-D3.1, 15A-D2.1). The specific reason given for some of the denials is that "negligence, forgetfulness, and misconception of the law" were not suitable excuses. Petitions pleading outbreaks of disease and mistakes of customs officials, on the other hand, sometimes received favorable treatment (10A-C2.1).

## Committee on Manufactures (1819-1911)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**7.10** Among the records of a select committee to revise the rules of the House are two memorials from Philadelphia manufacturers, presented to the House in December 1815, asking that a standing committee be appointed "to watch over the interests of our manufacturing citizens." In pleading their case, the memorialists noted the large amount of capital invested in manufacturing, the many citizens interested in it, and its importance to the country as an independent Nation. They maintained that the Committee on Commerce and Manufacturers then in existence was inadequate and denied that there was "any propriety in the reference of the subjects of Commerce and Manufactures to the same committee" (14A-F16.4).

**7.11** Despite these views, the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures continued for four more years. On December 7, 1819, Peter Little of Maryland offered an amendment of the House rules in order to provide a standing Committee on Manufactures. The chairman of the Committee on Commerce and Manufacturers, Thomas Newton, Jr., of Virginia, argued that commerce and manufactures were intimately connected, and noted that relief for threatened manufacturing interests was generally provided in the form of commercial duties. Representative Little, on the other hand, declared that commerce and manufactures were not necessarily connected and frequently had conflicting interests. Such arguments carried the day and, by a vote of 88 to 60, the amendment was accepted on December 8, 1819.[2]

**7.12** The Committee on Manufactures was assigned jurisdiction over matters relating "to the manufacturing industries." The Committee on Manufactures became inactive during the later years of its existence and was eliminated in 1911, at the beginning of the 62d Congress.

***Records of the Committee on Manufactures, 16th-61st Congresses (1819-1911)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 3 vols. | 1887-89, 1891-95 | 50th, 52d-53d |
| Docket Books | 11 vols. | 1833-45, 1849-53<br>1857-59, 1865-67<br>1873-75, 1877-81<br>1883-85, 1887-89<br>1891-95 | 23d-28th, 31st-32d<br>35th, 39th<br>43d, 45th-46th<br>48th, 50th<br>52d-53d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 7 ft. | 1819-36, 1839-55<br>1857-59, 1873-75<br>1877-81, 1883-85<br>1887-89, 1895-97<br>1909-11 | 16th-24th, 26th-33d<br>35th, 43d<br>45th-46th, 48th<br>50th, 54th<br>61st |
| Comm. Papers | 2 ft. | 1819-25, 1827-45<br>1851-53, 1877-81 | 16th-18th, 20th-28th<br>32d, 45th-46th |
| TOTAL: 9 ft. and 14 vols. (1 ft.) | | | |

**7.13** The three **minute books** of the committee record dates of meetings, attendance, appointments to subcommittees, motions, and some discussions. The volumes for the 50th (1887-89) and 52d (1891-93) Congresses contain entries for approximately one meeting per week, but only a few entries appear in the minute book for the 53d Congress (1893-95). A few additional minutes, covering meetings held from December 28, 1827 to January 10, 1828, are among the committee papers (20A-D12.1).

**7.14** **Docket books** are more numerous but contain little beyond a list of the matters referred to the committee and the names of the Members who formed the subcommittee to which the document was referred. The docket book for the 23d through 28th Congresses (1833-45), on the other hand, contains some notes of the activities of the committee. Many of the entries in this volume appear to be in the handwriting of the committee's chairman, John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts.

**7.15** Many of the **petitions** were sent by individuals and groups interested in the duties imposed on foreign goods imported into the country. During the 16th Congress (1819-21), for example, the committee received petitions from manufacturers and other concerned citizens in several States requesting increased duties on iron, cotton, paper, window glass, gloves, boots and shoes, coach lace, musical instruments, and other items, as well as petitions from Maine, South Carolina, and Virginia praying that no changes would be made in the duties then in force (16A-G10.2, 16A-G10.3). A large number of the petitions referred to the Committee on Manufactures during its first decade (1819-29) sought higher duties on iron (16A-G10.2, 18A-F9.1), cotton and wool (16A-G10.2, 18A-F9.1, 18A-F9.3, 19A-G10.1), and copper (16A-G10.2, 16A-G10.3; 20A-G10.2). Other petitioners requested higher duties on cabinets (16A-G10.2), marble (17A-F8.1), hemp and flax (18A-F9.3), and ready-made clothing (20A-G10.2). From 1829 to 1839, there are considerably fewer duty-related petitions.

**7.16** During the years 1839-41, there are again a large number of duty-related petitions. Included are calls for higher duties on imported manufactures such as pins (26A-G10.3, 26A-G10.4); boots, shoes, and leather (27A-G11.1, 27A-G11.4); umbrellas (26A-G10.2, 26A-G10.4); and salt (26A-G10.4, 27A-G11.4). Some manufacturers asked not only for higher duties on manufactured goods, but also for the repeal of duties on raw materials used to make manufactured goods in the United States (27A-G11.4).

**7.17** The years 1839-43 brought several petitions for increased duties on "liquor" and "spirits," a measure intended to reduce consumption rather than increase domestic production. In addition to requesting an increased duty, citizens of Wayne County, NY, asked that liquor no longer be furnished to the Army and Navy, sold in Washington, DC, or in any other areas under Federal jurisdiction (26A-G10.4). Another petition requested both a duty on imported liquor and an excise tax on domestic production in an effort to cut consumption (27A-G11.4).

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[2] *Annals of Congress of the United States*, 16th Cong., 1st sess., 8 Dec. 1819, pp. 708-10.

**7.18** Other petitions referred to the committee between 1839 and 1843, rather than requesting a change in the duty for a particular item of manufacture, called for a general protective tariff. Petitions coming from more than a dozen States and containing thousands of signatures support such a tariff as an aid to manufacturing in the United States, preserve home markets, and improve the economy. Such petitions came from several Pennsylvania towns (26A-G10.2); as well as from the Friends of a Protective Tariff in Windsor County, VT; the State legislatures of New Jersey and Massachusetts; and the city of Cincinnati, which submitted a large number of petitions requesting a tariff that would protect "the Arts, Agriculture, and Commerce" (27A-G11.5). One of the most detailed petitions comes from New York City and includes not only signatures but also occupations and addresses (27A-G11.2).

**7.19** A few petitions from the years 1839-43 suggest that attempts to negotiate lower duties with other nations might aid the economy of the country. The General Assembly of Tennessee, for example, supported negotiations with other nations for lower tobacco duties, but, if negotiations failed, the legislature favored placing high duties on imported luxury items (27A-G11.4). Michigan farmers requested negotiations with the British to open their markets to flour and pork produced in the United States (27A-G11.4).

**7.20** From 1843 to 1853, there are fewer petitions praying for changes to the duties on imports. Many of the petitions for this period came from merchants and manufacturers who either expressed their support for the protective tariff of 1842 or their displeasure with the Revenue Act of 1846, which cut back some of the 1842 rates (28A-G11.1, 29A-G9.1, 30A-G10.1, 31A-G10.1, 32A-G11.1). After 1853, there are virtually no petitions concerning duties.

**7.21** Some petitions requested other types of assistance. Silk manufacturer Ephraim Cooper believed that silkworms and the mulberry trees needed to feed them would thrive in the United States and could greatly aid the poor balance of trade with Britain and the West Indies. In 1820 Cooper requested a $25,000 grant from the Government to support his efforts. Cooper even sent along some samples of silk thread he had manufactured (16A-G10.2).

**7.22** The records also include a few petitions that deal with the issue of slavery. An 1820 petition from the city of Philadelphia argued against the spread of slavery into the State of Missouri (16A-G10.2). In 1828, numerous petitions called upon the Government to provide a site on the coast of Africa for blacks wishing to emigrate (20A-G10.2). In 1841, the American Free Produce Association requested that the duty on imported cotton be removed so that people in the United States could purchase foreign cotton instead of cotton produced by slaves (27A-G11.4). The only proposed constitutional amendment among the petitions is also related to the issue of slavery. Referred to the committee in February 1844, this petition from Trumball County, OH, calls for apportionment of representatives counting free inhabitants only, or, as an alternative, counting animals in free States the same as slaves in slave States (28A-G11.2).

**7.23** Few petitions are among the committee's records for the years 1853-1911. From 1877 to 1881, petitions in support of legislation to prohibit the adulteration of food and drink, came from the Chicago Board of Trade, the Produce Exchange of New York, and similar groups in Georgia, Missouri, Pennsylvania, and several other States. The Committee also received petitions concerning the creation of a Federal Department of Manufactures (46A-H13.2) and the regulation of the production and sale of oleomargarine (46A-H13.3). Petitioners during the 50th Congress (1887-89) sought legislation forbidding the formation of pools, trusts, and combinations.

**7.24** The **committee papers** are not as numerous as the petitions, consisting mostly of reports to Congress, though they include some correspondence and a few memorials. Most of the reports submitted by the committee concerned duties, such as the one in 1820 that examined "the various Memorials praying for, and remonstrating against, an increase of the duties on imports" (16A-D13.1). Papers from the 20th Congress (1841-43) contain manuscript transcripts of hearings held during that Congress on the wool, iron, spirits, window glass, rum, and hemp industries in the country, as well as a committee report, witness subpoenas, and an index of the transcripts by witness and topic (20A-D12.1).

**7.25** During the 1830's and 1840's, there are both majority and minority committee reports on the protection of domestic manufacturing (22A-D15.1, 27A-

D12.1), in addition to reports concerning the manufacturing of silk (24A-D12.1) and the decision in 1844 not to amend the 1842 tariff (28A-D16.1). No other significant records appear in the committee papers until 1888, when the committee held hearings on trusts. Accompanying the empowering resolution from Congress for the committee to investigate combinations and their effect upon prices is testimony from several witnesses involved in the distillation and sale of whiskey and the manufacturing and sale of cotton bagging (50A-F21.1). There are no committee papers after 1888 other than a list of appointments to the committee in 1895 (54A-F24.1).

## Committee on Commerce (1819-92)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**7.26** This section reviews the records of the Committee on Commerce that existed from 1819, when the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures was split into two standing committees, until 1892, when its name was changed to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. During this period, the committee's jurisdiction extended to "commerce, Life-Saving Service, and light-houses, other than appropriations for Life-Saving Service and light-houses."[3] In practice, the committee's responsibilities encompassed regulation of both interstate and foreign commerce generally; customs collection districts, ports of entry, and ports of delivery; compensation of customhouse officials; regulations and appropriations regarding navigable waters and works affecting them, such as bridges, locks, dams, tunnels, pipes, and cribs; obstructions to navigation, such as sunken vessels; lighthouses and other aids to navigation; interoceanic canals; ocean cables; lifesaving stations; public health and the prevention of infectious diseases; purity of food and drugs; regulations regarding the exportation of livestock and foodstuffs; transportation of livestock; and the regulation of railroads. Besides the Lifesaving Service, the committee exercised jurisdiction over matters relating to such Federal agencies as the Revenue-Cutter Service; the Marine Hospital Service; and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

**7.27** When the Committee on Rivers and Harbors was established on December 19, 1883, the Committee on Commerce relinquished its jurisdiction over appropriations for the improvement of rivers and harbors.

***Records of the Committee on Commerce, 16th-51st Congresses (1819-1892)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Docket Books | 6 vols. | 1825-33, 1843-49<br>1855-59 | 19th-22d, 28th-30th<br>34th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 57 ft. | 1819-91 | 16th-51st |
| Comm. Papers | 16 ft. | 1819-91 | 16th-51st |
| TOTAL: | 73 ft. and 6 vols. (1 ft.) | | |

**7.28** The **docket books** contain a list of the bills, resolutions, petitions, and memorials that were referred to the committee. The entries note the Member of Congress who introduced or presented the item, the date of referral, and the subject. In many instances, the entries also indicate the member or members of the committee assigned as an ad hoc subcommittee to consider a given matter and make recommendations to the committee about it; frequently there is also information concerning the final disposition by the committee. The volumes for the years 1845-47 include some notes on attendance at committee meetings. Apparently in an attempt to deal with a chronic problem of members arriving late or failing to come to committee meetings, the committee resolved to assess fines against those absent 15 minutes after the meeting began.

**7.29** **Petitions and memorials**, with resolutions of State legislatures and other groups, comprises the largest series of records of the Committee on Commerce. Other types of documents in this series include maps, sketches, vessel enrollment certificates, letters, reports of surveys of harbors, customs data, newspaper clippings, bills, and resolutions referring particular matters to the committee. Issues relating to waterborne commerce predominate, especially for the period before the Civil War. In the postwar years, railroad and telegraph issues also appear with some frequency.

**7.30** This series includes for almost every Congress a subseries consisting of petitions and memorials concerning placement of lighthouses, light vessels, buoys, beacons, fog signals, and other aids to navigation at specific locations. Accompanying some of these are supporting documents, such as maps, sketches, letters, and tables of statistics on commercial activities at the harbor concerned. Most petitions were straightforward requests for a lighthouse or other conventional aids to navigation, but a wide variety of objects could serve that purpose, including structures whose primary mission was far removed from aiding navigation, at least ostensibly. The congregation of the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church at New Utrecht in Kings County, NY, for example, submitted a petition in January 1822 explaining that their church and an old buttonwood tree had for years served as landmarks to ships entering New York Harbor. The tree, however, was decaying, and the church was old and had been damaged during the Revolutionary War. The petitioners were considering building a new church with a 130 foot steeple, and, in view of its beneficial effects on navigation, the petitioners asked that the Federal Government fund all but $5,000 of the $25,000 cost (17A-F 3.5).

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[3] Asher C. Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907) vol. 4, p. 736.

**7.31** The Committee on Commerce exercised jurisdiction over a complex network of laws designed to encourage American commercial activity, including the customs laws that established the system by which the Government raised revenue and protected native industries, the navigation acts designed to encourage American shipping, and the law providing a bounty to owners of certain fishing vessels. The committee received a large number of petitions and memorials regarding these laws, most seeking special congressional consideration of a specific case. Many petitioners sought a refund of duties paid on a shipment for a variety of reasons, such as that the goods had been destroyed by fire before they could be sold or because the shipment constituted a charitable donation for the relief of the widow of a murdered seaman (16A-G4.2). Likewise, an assortment of reasons might be offered to justify an exception to the rules limiting the coastal trade to American ships and imposing special fees on foreign vessels discharging goods at American ports. The owner of one such vessel, for example, asked for exemption because the law had not been enacted before he took on the cargo, while another asked for a refund on cargo that was in a British vessel when it arrived at an American port only because the original American vessel was lost in a storm while en route (16A-G4.2). The special privileges allowed American ships resulted in a number of petitions that sought American registry for specific vessels (35A-G3.15, 39A-H5.5). Similarly, the promise of a fishing bounty spurred a few petitioners to seek payment despite some disqualifying circumstance, such as failure to renew a license (16A-G4.3).

**7.32** Some petitions and memorials, rather than seeking an exception to the laws, argued for or against a change in them, such as the 1820 memorial of the Virginia Agricultural Society of Fredericksburg against a tariff bill (16A-G4.2). There are petitions for and against repeal of acts prohibiting British vessels from bringing goods from the British colonies into U.S. ports (17A-G3.4). A petition from mackerel fishermen asked for a general change in the law to extend to them the same bounties available to cod fishermen (21A-G4.4).

**7.33** Other recurring topics among the petitions and memorials concern the administrative machinery set up to enforce the customs laws. Since vessels arriving in the United States from foreign shores could not proceed to a port of delivery without first stopping at a port of entry to pay duty and complete the required paperwork, many petitions and memorials among the records request the designation of a specific location as a port of entry (numerous Congresses). Designation as a port of entry enhanced the prospects of a community vis-a-vis its neighbors and sometimes engendered rivalry, as was the case in a controversy during the 1840's over whether to confer such status on Lafayette, LA, instead of extending the recognized boundaries of the neighboring port of entry at New Orleans (28A-G4.7). Petitions also addressed such administrative issues as the assignment of steam revenue cutters to various waters (25A-G3.8, 26A-G3.10), governmental warehouses (28A-G4.8, 34A-G3.12), and pay and pensions of officials of the Government (16A-G4.5, 33A-G4.9, 46A-H6.5, 47A-H5.8, 48A-H6.3).

**7.34** Steam gradually overtook wind as the predominant source of power for vessels during the 19th century. The new technology was not without risks, however, and tragic accidents occurred when steam boilers exploded. Concern about the safety of steamships is the subject of some of the records. In the year 1845, the committee received two printed petitions from travelers on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers who advocated the use of Evans' Safety Guard on steamship boilers in order to prevent explosions (28A-

G4.13), while petitioners in 1854 asked that the Government purchase the patent rights to the invention so that use of the safety guard would be more widespread (33A-G4.8). Another petition advocated the construction of bulkheads to protect deck passengers in the event of explosion (31A-G3.8). Letters from Edward D. Tippett, newspaper clippings, and communications from executive agencies document Tippett's attempt to convince Congress of the value of his cold water safety steam engine (31A-G3.8).

**7.35** Safety concerns also led to restrictions on the type of cargo that steam vessels could carry. Petitions from the year 1866 asked that the restriction on transportation of gunpowder by steamboat be eased to permit the powder to be transported in iron kegs (39A-H5.7). Another important advancement in safety was the introduction of compulsory pilotage laws and regulations for the Nation's busy harbors. Reaction to such measures was not altogether favorable, however, as shown by a number of petitions and memorials protesting the changes (16A-G4.5, 25A-G3.8, 34A-G3.10, 45A-H6.1). There are also records giving opinions on other innovations designed to safeguard passengers, including steamboat lighting, lifeboat, and inspection requirements (30A-G4.7, 31A-G3.8, 32A-G4.10).

**7.36** Some petitions and memorials referred to the Committee on Commerce address social issues. The committee had jurisdiction over the Marine Hospital Service, created on July 16, 1798, to provide care for sick and disabled American merchant seamen. Funding for the hospitals came from fees charged to arriving seamen. There are a number of petitions and memorials regarding the hospital service. Most of these sought an expansion of the system, including establishment of hospitals on inland waterways for the temporary seamen operating canal boats on the rivers (22A-G4.3) and for emigrants and business travelers who might become ill while en route (24A-G3.6). Another petition, however, contains the signatures of thousands of married seamen who wanted to be released from the payment of the hospital tax unless the rules were changed to allow them to receive benefits (39A-H5.8). Other memorials relating to social issues reflect concern about epidemics of infectious diseases (39A-H5.4, 49A-H7.5, 50A-H6.3) and about immigration policy and its effects (32A-G4.8, 42A-H3.2, 44A-H3.4, 45A-H6.3).

**7.37** There are numerous petitions and memorials regarding improvements to the Nation's water transportation system, including the removal of obstructions in rivers (numerous Congresses), the construction of canals (23A-G3.7, 45A-H6.5, 51A-H6.12), the building of bridges over navigable streams (numerous Congresses), and the creation of a St. Lawrence River waterway to the Great Lakes (37A-G2.9). In addition, a number of documents from the 1880's and 1890's support proposals to link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, including Capt. James B. Eads' proposal for a ship railway in Mexico (49A-H7.3) and proposals to build a canal across Nicaragua (50A-H6.10, 51A-H6.12).

**7.38** A few petitions and memorials concern communications issues. For example, a memorial favoring a survey of an overland route for a telegraph from Russian America (Alaska) to the Amoor River in Russia, is accompanied by maps and a copy of H. Ex. Doc. 98, 35th Cong., 1st sess., entitled "Explorations of Amoor River" (37A-G2.8). Other petitions that focus on communications relate to marine signal codes (24A-G3.11, 34A-G3.8, 35A-G3.12) and the telegraph industry (44A-H3.1, 45A-H6.10).

**7.39** Though water transportation issues dominate the records throughout the history of the Committee on Commerce, petitions and memorials dealing with railroads appear regularly during the period following the Civil War. Included are many protests against unjust discrimination in the rates charged by common carriers, calls for governmental regulation of interstate commerce, and comments regarding the effects of the Interstate Commerce Act of 1887 (44A-H3.3, 45A-H6.2, 46A-H6.6, 47A-H5.1, 49A-H7.10, 50A-H6.1, 51A-H6.9, 51A-H6.10). A few memorials called for governmental action to require safety devices for railroads, such as automatic couplers and air brakes (50A-H6.7, 51A-H6.14).

**7.40** Numerous other issues and events are mentioned in the petitions and memorials of the Committee on Commerce, including an exploring expedition to the South Seas (22A-G4.5, 23A-G3.7), the value of foreign coins (22A-G4.6), a proposed expedition to rescue polar explorer Dr. E.K. Kane (33A-G4.2), exemptions for canal boats from certain shipping regulations (28A-G4.9), subsidies for steamship lines (35A-G3.9, 38A-G3.7, 45A-H6.9, 50A-H6.5), and regulations regarding the transportation of livestock (48A-H6.11, 49A-H7.11).

**7.41 Committee papers** of the Committee on Commerce consist mainly of manuscript copies of committee reports and communications from executive agencies regarding legislative proposals. There is a wide variety of other documents, however, including some petitions and memorials, letters received by the committee, and published materials, as well as occasional sketches, maps, affidavits, newspaper clippings, and copies of laws and regulations.

**7.42** The committee papers relate to many of the same topics as the petitions and memorials, including navigational aids, shipping and customs regulations, private claims or requests, and internal improvements. Among the documents relating to aids to navigation are notes from an interview with Commodore James Barron regarding the use of light vessels off the coast of England and his suggestions for light vessels on the Chesapeake Bay (16A-D4.1); a list of U.S. lighthouses, their keepers, and salaries for the year 1828, prepared for the committee by the Treasury Department (20A-D4.5); a list showing appropriations in 1836 for harbor improvements in certain States (24A-D3.6); and copies of correspondence between the auditor in the Treasury Department and collectors of customs regarding the need for specific navigational aids, including estimates of the anticipated costs and statements of moneys collected in the districts involved (19A-D4.1). Papers from the year 1826 concerning the removal of wrecks remaining in Savannah harbor from the Revolutionary War include affidavits of local citizens who lived there during that historic era (19A-D4.4). There are also letters, dated 1853, from the files of the Coast Survey Office regarding the proposed removal of the remnants of the *Aberdeen*, which foundered on rocks near Fort Point in San Francisco Bay (33A-D2.10).

**7.43** Records relating to shipping include a list of American vessels that arrived at Havre in 1819 and 1820, showing the difference in tonnage measurements between French and U.S. authorities, and other papers regarding commerce with France (16A-D4.2). There are replies to a circular sent to merchants and ship owners regarding the effect of the Shipping Act of 1872, along with other letters and affidavits of seamen recounting personal experiences (43A-F7.4). From the year 1879, there is a file, consisting mainly of correspondence, on proposals to allow American owners to obtain American registry for foreign-built ships. Included is a list, compiled from U.S. statutes, of exceptions to the registry laws from 1859 to 1879 (45A-F7.5).

**7.44** Committee papers also include replies of collectors of customs to an 1821 circular of the Secretary of the Treasury regarding the act of March 2, 1819, which had eased reporting requirements for coastwise trade within the same or an adjoining State. The circular was used to determine whether the law had increased smuggling and other revenue violations and led to higher administrative costs, and to solicit suggestions on ways to remedy the situation. Most of the officials replied that smuggling had increased and recommended the repeal of the act (17A-C4.4).

**7.45** There are papers regarding private claims concerning fishing bounties, drawbacks and other refunds of duty paid, compensation, contracts, wrecks, and clearances, including a bound volume of transcribed documents submitted by Solomon Hopkins and others in their case to obtain pay claimed for their work as aides in the Boston Customhouse (35A-D4.2). Papers from the years 1883-84 relating to a request for a life-saving station for Chatham Bay, MA, include a map showing the sites of wrecks during the period from 1873-83, a letter from the keeper, and comments of the general superintendent of the Life-saving Service (49A-F7.3).

**7.46** In 1890 the committee received numerous letters, as well as newspaper clippings, from Kentucky residents complaining of plundering by persons living in shanty boats on the Ohio River. The letters favor legislation that would require residents of boats on inland waterways to obtain licenses (51A-F7.8).

**7.47** Among the committee papers relating to canals and internal improvements is a copy of a blank questionnaire, dated 1870, used by the Canadian Office of Canal Commissioners on proposals for new canals or canal improvements in Canada (41A-F6.4). Papers regarding a proposed Mississippi River Bridge at New Orleans include a promotional pamphlet of the New Orleans Terminal Railway and Bridge Company, two issues of the *Picayune*, blueprints, copies of bills, and materials related to subcommittee hearings on the issue (51A-F7.4).

**7.48** Committee papers concerning railroads include materials relative to an investigation authorized on May 24, 1876, of alleged collusion among railroad companies to control commerce. The records include a copy of the resolution referring the matter to the committee, as well as letters and telegrams received, lists of railroad rates, and newspaper clippings (44A-F6.2). Among committee papers of the 45th Congress is a letter from railroad magnate C.P. Huntington refuting a memorial of January 21, 1879 from the Nevada legislature that charged the Central Pacific Railroad with discrimination in rates (45A-F7.2). Other railroad related papers include copies of an 1886 diplomatic dispatch from the U.S. minister at the Hague regarding the railway system of the Netherlands (49A-F7.5) and a partial manuscript report of the 1888 investigation by the House Select Committee on Existing Labor Troubles in Pennsylvania created to consider circumstances surrounding the ongoing Reading Railroad strike (50A-F7.2).

## Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce (1892-1968)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**7.49** The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce came into existence in 1892 when the name of the Committee on Commerce was changed "apparently in order to placate a losing candidate for Speaker of the House who was to become its chairman, by providing a more dignified sounding name."[5] Though the name change was not due to a change in jurisdiction, the committee did experience some jurisdictional changes during the 1880's and 1890's.

**7.50** During most of the 19th century, there had been some inconsistency in the referral of certain customs-related matters. After 1895, however, the jurisdiction over customs districts, ports of entry and delivery, the transportation of dutiable goods, and officers and employees in the customs service passed to the Committee on Ways and Means. Similarly, for many years after the establishment of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in December 1887, the division of jurisdiction over various matters relating to water transportation between the new committee and the Committee on Commerce (later, the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee) was inconsistently applied, but progressively more of these issues were referred to the Merchant Marine Committee. In 1935 the House rule that defined committee jurisdictions finally dropped the phrase that referred matters relating to the Lifesaving Service and lighthouses to the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee. That same year, however, the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce acquired jurisdiction over radio-related matters from the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

**7.51** After passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the House rules defined the jurisdiction of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee as follows: Interstate and foreign commerce generally; regulation of interstate and foreign transportation, except transportation by water not subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission; regulation of interstate and foreign communications; civil aeronautics; weather bureau; interstate oil compacts; petroleum and natural gas, except on the public lands; securities and exchanges; regulation of interstate transmission of power, except the installation of connections between Government water power projects; railroad labor and railroad retirement and unemployment, except revenue measures relating thereto; public health and quarantine; inland waterways; the Bureau of Standards and the standardization of weights and measures and the metric system.

**7.52** Because of the pervasive influence of commercial activity in American life, it was perhaps inevitable that the jurisdiction of the Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee frequently overlapped with that of other committees. A committee print from 1974 stated that the committee's jurisdiction overlapped with the jurisdiction of over half of the House committees.

***Records of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, 52d-79th Congresses (1892-1946)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 23 vols. | 1893-1901, 1907-44 | 53d-56th, 60th-78th |
| Docket Books | 45 vols. | 1893-1944 | 53d-78th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 49 ft. | 1891-1927, 1929-46 | 52d-69th, 71st-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 74 ft. | 1891-1927, 1929-46 | 52d-69th, 71st-79th |
| Bill files | 81 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |
| TOTAL: 204 ft. and 68 vols. (7 ft.) | | | |

* See also table for the 80th-90th Congresses after para. 7.71.

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[5] U.S. Congress, House Select Committee on Committees, *Monographs on the Committees of the House of Represenatives*, Committee Print, 93d Cong., 2d sess., 1974, p. 98. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1974. See also H. Doc. 234, 85th Cong., 1st sess., "Historical Data Regarding the Creation and Jurisdiction of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce."

**7.53** The records of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce include a nearly complete set of bound minutes and docket volumes for this time period. The entries in the **minute books** include information on dates of committee hearings and witnesses who testified, as well as minutes of other committee meetings. Minutes of subcommittee meetings also appear in the volumes for the 67th Congress (1921-23) and the 72d-78th Congresses (1931-44). Roll call votes of the committee are also recorded in the minute books beginning with the 67th Congress.

**7.54** **Docket books** list the bills, petitions, and other documents referred to the committee. From the 53d to 59th Congresses (1893-1907), entries for those matters that were referred to the executive branch for comment include brief notes regarding the executive agency position on the proposal. Two docket volumes are available for some time periods. For the 60th to 64th Congresses (1907-17), separate docket volumes were created to track bills the committee received that had originated in the Senate. From the 70th to 78th Congresses (1927-44), there are volumes containing entries on all subjects referred to the committee but also separate volumes that track only bills relating to bridges.

**7.55** **Petitions and memorials**, with resolutions of State legislatures and other groups, are occasionally accompanied by a number of other types of documents, such as trade association newsletters, maps, and reports and communications from Federal agencies. The petitions and memorials themselves take several forms. They may be manuscript, typewritten, or printed. Many of the documents are letters, telegrams, or postcards, rather than petitions and memorials in the more formal sense. As is the case during other time periods, the committee sometimes received numerous copies of identical petitions, memorials, or letters from different persons or groups. There are also some rolled petitions. Besides State legislatures and private individuals, chambers of commerce, boards of trade, trade associations, labor unions, farm groups, church congregations and other religious groups, and women's clubs appear as petitioners and memorialists.

**7.56** Transportation issues continue to be the focus of many memorials referred to the retitled committee, although the focus is no longer on water but on land transportation, reflecting the enormous expansion of railroads and the development of motor vehicles during the period from 1892 to 1946. During the 1870's, the Midwestern States became the first to enact regulatory legislation in response to charges by farmers and businessmen of unjust discrimination in railroad rates, but in 1886 the Supreme Court, in *Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Railway Company* v. *Illinois*, severely restricted the ability of the States to enact laws that affected interstate commerce. In response, on February 4, 1887, the Federal Government enacted the Interstate Commerce Act. The act, which originated in the Senate but was referred to the Committee on Commerce in the House, prohibited railroads from engaging in such practices as rebates, long and short haul rate discrimination, and pools involving ratefixing and profitsharing agreements among railroad companies. A permanent board, the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC), was appointed to supervise administration of the new law. The Interstate Commerce Act set the stage for an explosive increase in governmental regulation of commerce in which the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce would play a leading role. This activity is a dominant topic among the petitions and memorials.

**7.57** The original Interstate Commerce Act did not fare well in the Supreme Court, and by 1897 the ICC had become virtually powerless. Legislation enacted during the first decade of the 20th century, however, did much to reinvigorate it. Petitions referred to the committee from 1891 to 1913 called for strengthening of the ICC's powers in general (52A-H9.1, 55A. H9.2, 56A-H10.1, 57A-H11.1, 62A-H14.7) and the power to set reasonable rates in particular (55A-H9.6, 58A-H10.5, 58A-H10.12, 58A-H10.13, 59A-H11.1, 60A-H16.17). Other petitions deal with specific grievances against the railroads, such as difficulties obtaining railroad cars for shipments and slow delivery time (59A-H11.7, 60A-H16.16, 65A-H6.3).

**7.58** Some of the petitions and memorials object to the restrictions on railroads. There are, for example, memorials calling for legalization of pooling under certain limited circumstances (53A-H14.7, 60A-H16.3), as well as memorials against such a change (55A-H9.11). Newspapermen who had received free railroad passes in exchange for publishing railroad schedules in their newspapers sought an exemption to the provision of the Hepburn Act of 1906 that prohibited free passes to anyone but railroad employees (62A-H14.10). From the 71st to 78th Congress (1929-44), there are petitions for a rollback of some of the regulations that had been enacted, such as the requirement that the ICC approve mergers and prohibitions against certain ratemaking procedures (71A-H7.1, 74A-H6.6, 76A-H12.5, 78A-H8.5). Other petitions, dating from 1925 to 1933, call for regulation of motor buses and trucks as a matter of fairness to the railroads (69A-H6.11, 71A-H7.3, 72A-H6.4).

**7.59** Regulation of railroad labor practices were the subject of petitions from railroad employees, their unions, and other interested persons during the early 20th century. These pertain to such issues as employment qualifications, passes for employees and their families, the number of hours that employees could work, strikes, retirement, and other issues (58A-H10.10, 59A-H11.5, 63A-H12.12, 64A-H11.9, 65A-H6.5, 73A-H8.8, 74A-H6.3, 76A-H12.8, 79A-H8.13). Railroad safety appliances and procedures, such as automatic couplers, air brakes, electric signals, accident reporting, automatic cleaning of ash pans, and punishment of trainwreckers and robbers, received the support of numerous memorialists and petitioners (52A-H9.11, 53A-H14.8, 57A-H11.11, 59A-H11.8, 60A-H16.15, 63A-H12.18).

**7.60** The railroads were the first industry to come under strong Federal regulations, but others soon followed. Calls for regulation of the food processing and drug industries led to the enactment of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906 and subsequent legislation, though not without protest from business interests. Numerous petitions and memorials, dating from 1897 to 1915, concern such issues as the mixture of flour, imitation dairy products, ingredients in baking powder, labeling and standardization of product ingredients and weights and measures, grain inspection, food preservatives, and cold storage requirements (55A-H9.15, 56A-H10.5, 57A-H11.9, 58A-H10.7, 59A-H11.6, 60A-H16.14, 62A-H14.6, 63A-H12.3).

**7.61** Petitions and memorials, dating mostly from before 1920, address issues relating to the regulation of numerous other industries, including the telephone and telegraph (53A-H14.6, 54a-H14.6, 60A-H16.19, 63A-H12.10, 65A-H6.13), coal (63A-H12.2; 65A-H6.3; 66A-H10.4, 66A-H10.12; 72A-H6.2), paint (60A-H16.12), and clothing industries (62A-H14.11, 63A-H12.13, 66A-H10.18, 69A-H6.19), and later the airline (75A-H7.2, 78A-H8.1) and petroleum industries (76A-H12.7).

**7.62** Clearly the new governmental activism was not viewed by everyone as an improvement. Several memorials from the 60th Congress (1907-9) call for a friendlier legislative attitude toward corporations so that business might have a chance to recover from the economic slump (60A-H16.2). Letters from paint manufacturers in 1908 counsel Congress that, while "each Congressman's constituency apparently expects him to prove his stewardship by the introduction of legislative bills, nevertheless we take the liberty of suggesting to you that the present is an excellent opportunity for letting well enough alone." (60A-H16.12) Some small businessmen, on the other hand, led the call for certain restrictions on commerce, calling for taxation of the interstate mail order business (63A-H12.22, 64A-H11.18) and price maintenance legislation to prevent the price cutting associated with the developing chain stores (63A-H12.16, 69A-H6.12, 71A-H7.1, 74A-H6.5). As World War I was raging in Europe, the committee received petitions asking Congress to impose embargoes on exports of food, petroleum, and munitions in order to keep prices from escalating at home, while a few farmers wrote to object to an embargo (63A-H12.4, 64A-H11.4, 64A-H11.10, 64A-H11.12).

**7.63** Americans turned to the Federal Government with its exclusive power over interstate commerce to resolve a host of perceived imperfections in society. Petitions from the years 1893 to 1921 called for laws to suppress interstate traffic relating to lotteries and gambling (53A-H14.11, 60A-H16.5, 66A-H10.8), smoking (55A-H9.13), liquor (58A-H10.8, 60A-H16.11, 61A-H13.6), obscene material (54A-H14.10), pictures of suicides (55A-H9.14), and pictures or descriptions of prize fights (55A-H9.19). During the 1930's, the committee received numerous petitions deploring the moral standards of Hollywood movies and asking the Federal Government to require licenses for films intended for interstate and foreign distribution and to prohibit the film studios from imposing block booking requirements on local movie theaters (71A-H7.2, 72A-H6.3, 74A-H6.4, 75A-H7.7, 76A-H12.6).

**7.64** Another substantial section of the petitions and memorials concerns water transportation issues. Even though most of the committee's jurisdiction over these subjects had passed to either the Committee on Rivers and Harbors or the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries long before 1946, there remains a considerable body of records referred to the committee on these issues. They cover the entire period, 1892 to 1946, but most date from before 1925. Included are documents regarding proposed bridges and dams (52A-H9.1, 53A-H14.1, 54A-H14.3, 56A-H10.1, 57A-H11.2, 58A-H10.1, 62A-H14.2, 63A-H12.7, 65A-H7.1, 67A-H7.5); the interoceanic canal (52A-H9.2, 53A-H14.1, 54A-H14.7, 55A-H9.9, 56A-H10.3, 62A-H14.13, 63A-H12.8); lighthouses and other aids to navigation (52A-H9.7, 53A-H14.5, 55A-H9.1, 56A-H10.8, 58A-H10.3, 60A-H16.10); registry laws, subsidies, and other issues relating to American shipping (52A-G9.6, 55A-H9.12, 58A-H10.11, 60A-H16.20, 63A-H12.19, 65A-H6.14); the Lifesaving Service, Revenue-Cutter Service, Marine Hospital Service, and Coast Guard (52A-H9.4, 56A-H10.11, 57A-H11.6, 58A-H10.9, 60A-H16.9, 61A-H13.5, 62A-H14.16, 63A-H12.20, 66A-H10.3, 67A-H7.8); and, from 1931 to 1946, proposals for a waterway from the St. Lawrence River to the Great Lakes (72A-H6.8, 73A-H8.1, 76A-H12.9, 77A-H7.5, 79A-H8.7).

**7.65** Two-thirds of the **committee papers** for the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce from 1892 to 1946 consists of records relating to the committee's investigation during the 73d Congress (1933-35) of the ownership and control of communications companies. Most of the records of the investigation are arranged by company and consist of company responses to the committee questionnaire, with organization charts, annual reports and other printed materials relating to the companies, historical background and statistical information, notes, charts, analyses of information collected, and drafts of the sections of the committee report pertaining to the companies. There are also investigative work papers; memorandums; data provided by the Interstate Commerce Commission, the Department of Commerce, and the Federal Radio Commission; lists; an abstract of the Communications Act of 1934; magazine articles and newspaper clippings; correspondence with companies and Federal agencies; and a card file containing information regarding licensed radio stations. Drafts and published copies of the committee's preliminary and final reports on the investigation are also included (73A-F15.2, 51 ft.).

**7.66** The remainder of the committee papers for the period from 1892 to 1946 consists of a variety of documents. A large percentage is annual reports and other communications from executive agencies, many of which include proposals for legislation or comments on bills pending before the committee. Fewer in number, but closely related, are Presidential messages that were referred to the committee. These include Presidential messages of Theodore Roosevelt regarding plans for the Panama Canal (57A-F16.1, 59A-F18.5). There are also copies of bills and resolutions, committee reports, congressional publications and, from the period before 1927, letters received from interested citizens regarding legislative issues, newspaper clippings, and privately published materials.

**7.67** The papers generally parallel the petitions and memorials in terms of subject matter. There are, for example, committee papers relating to amendments to the Interstate Commerce Act and other matters involving regulation of interstate and foreign commerce (52A-F20.5, 53A-F19.2, 59A-F18.4). Records regarding railroad issues include correspondence of November 1919 between former Member of Congress William Jennings Bryan and the president of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway System concerning the distribution of railroad passes to legislators (66A-F22.4). There is a letter from the Department of the Navy containing information about its high-powered radio transmitting stations (65A-F14.1). Transcripts of hearings are included on such matters as establishment of a Department of Commerce and Industries, national quarantine policy, the Commerce Court, and aeronautics (55A-F16.2, 55A-F16.8, 62A-F19.1, 69A-F23.1). There are numerous documents concerning aids to navigation, bridges and dams over navigable waters, life saving stations, ports of entry, and other subjects relating to water transportation, including a copy of an 1896 letter of former Member of Congress William A. Newell of New Jersey regarding the role he played in the founding of the Lifesaving Service in 1848. Accompanying it is an 83-page typewritten response from the General Superintendent of the Lifesaving Service, dated May 17, 1898 (55A-F16.3). The numerous documents relating to the interoceanic canal include letters received; the draft of a proposed treaty with Nicaragua; the February 16, 1899, statement to the committee by the American Atlantic and Pacific Ship Canal Company, with related material; hearing transcripts; messages from President Roosevelt regarding the report of the Isthmian Canal Commission on the proposal of the New Panama Canal Company to sell its rights and property and unfinished work to the United States, the need for a canal with locks, and his visit to the Canal

Zone; and annual reports of the Isthmian Canal Commission (55A-F16.5, 55A-F16.7, 57A-F16.1, 59A-F18.5, 59A-F18.6, 60A-F27.6).

**7.68** Executive agencies whose annual reports or other communications to Congress are among the committee papers include the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor, the Navy, and State; the Interstate Commerce Commission; the Federal Trade Commission; the Federal Power Commission; the Securities and Exchange Commission; the Lifesaving Service; the Isthmian Canal Commission; the Lighthouse Commission; the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics; the Civilian Aviation Administration; the U.S. Railroad Labor Board; the National Mediation Board; the Federal Works Agency; the Board of War Communications; and the U.S. Public Health Service (numerous Congresses).

**7.69** Legislative **bill files** consist of copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, executive agency comments on the proposals, and committee reports. Some of the files also contain letters and telegrams from persons and groups interested in the legislation. Other types of documents appear occasionally among the records, including transcripts of hearings, memorandums, maps, surveys, photographs, proposed amendments, petitions, printed copies of laws, nongovernmental publications, newspaper clippings, and magazine articles.

**7.70** A few examples may serve to convey a sense of the variety of documents available among the bill files. The bill file on H.R. 9123, 60th Cong., to establish a Tuberculosis Commission includes a letter from Capt. Paul C. Hutton, surgeon at Fort William H. Seward in Haines, AK, with a report of the U.S. Grand Jury for the District of Alaska, dated December 1907, concerning tuberculosis among native Alaskans (60A-D13). Also from the 60th Congress, the file on H.R. 17707 concerning a power dam across the James River in Stone County, MO, includes the enrolled bill returned by the President and his veto message of January 15, 1909, as well as a report to the President, dated the previous day, from the Commissioner of Corporations in the Department of Commerce and Labor regarding the concentration of the control of water power (60A-D13). One very unusual file includes an enrolled bill with the signatures of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate lined through. The bill is H.R. 12197, 64th Cong., concerning a bridge across Bayou Bartholomew in Ashley County, AR. Accompanying it is the transmittal letter from the President stating that he was returning the bill in compliance with H.Con.Res. 46, as well as a letter from the Secretary of War informing President Woodrow Wilson that the bill contained an error in the description of the location where the bridge was to be built (64A-D8). For S. 2009, 76th Cong., the Transportation Act of 1940, there are copies of the Senate, House, and conference reports; copies of the bill; agency comments; a committee print that compares the proposal with existing law; and copies of statements made during the House-Senate conference on the bill (76A-D18).

**7.71** The bill files cover the entire range of topics referred to the committee.

***Records of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 12 vols. | 1947-68 | 79th-90th |
| Docket Books | 18 vols. | 1947-68 | 79th-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 6 ft. | 1947-68 | 79th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 36 ft. | 1947-68 | 79th-90th |
| Bill Files | 84 ft | 1947-68 | 79th-90th |
| TOTAL: 126 ft. and 30 vols. (5 ft.) | | | |

*See also table for 52d-79th Congresses after para. 7.52.

**7.72** The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce is unique among all standing committees of the House in that the National Archives holds full sets of committee **minute books** and **docket books** for the period from 1947 to 1968. The minute books contain typed pages pasted into the volumes which give the following basic information on meetings: Date, time of day, presiding official, subjects discussed, witnesses heard, and amendments approved or rejected. In addition, copies of committee prints with proposed text changes and mimeographed copies of amendments occasionally can be found pasted into a volume.

**7.73** The docket books have entries arranged in chronological order by type of measure: House bills, House Joint Resolutions, House Concurrent Resolutions, House Resolutions, Senate bills, and Senate Joint Resolutions. Generally each docket entry includes the measure's date of introduction, the bill number and name of Representative introducing it, the bill's purpose and whether it was superseded by another measure, and a full account—with dates—of what happened to the measure (comments from agencies and departments, subcommittee and full committee meetings, committee disposition, passage by House, and enactment into public law).

**7.74** In quantity, two-thirds of the total amount of **petitions and memorials** are petitions which call for an end to alcoholic beverage advertisements on radio and television (80A-H7.3, 81A-H7.3, 82A-H9.1, 83A-H7.3, 84A-H8.3, 85A-H9.4). Other subjects that generated considerable numbers of petitions included amendments to the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 (80A-H7.2, 81A-H7.1, 83A-H7.1, 84A-H8.2, and 85A-H9.1), amendments to the Natural Gas Act of 1938 relative to the Federal Power Commission having the right to regulate well-head prices of field producers (84A-H8.1, 85A-H9.1), the establishment of national compulsory health insurance (81A-H7.2, 82A-H9.1), and the possibility of governmental approval for pay-television (85A-H9.3, 87A-H7.1).

**7.75** For a typical Congress such as the 87th Congress (1961-62), memorials came from the legislatures of Idaho, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Hawaii, Delaware, Arizona, Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Alaska. Subjects covered included freight rates for the lumber industry, a fish sanctuary for the Salmon River, regulation of hydro-electric facilities by the Federal Power Commission, water pollution controls, representation on the Travel Advisory Board, Federal Communications Commission regulations regarding evening broadcasts, efforts to eradicate narcotic drug addiction, drug distribution controls, the establishment of a Federal narcotics hospital, the establishment of a Federal medical school, automotive safety, and air service (87A-H7.2).

**7.76** **Committee papers** consist primarily of numerically arranged executive communications, messages from the President, copies of printed hearings and reports, final editions of committee calendars, and 1958-63 executive session transcripts for the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. Approximately 23 feet, nearly two-thirds of the committee papers, consist of executive communications. For the most part these are letters and publications sent to the Speaker of the House and then referred to the committee. They include draft proposals of legislation, reports submitted in compliance with U.S. law, and governmental publications and reports. These executive communications came from a variety of entities including the Federal Aviation Agency; the Civil Aeronautics Board; the Federal Communications Commission; the Federal Power Commission; the Federal Trade Commission; the Interstate Commerce Commission; the National Mediation Board; the Department of Commerce; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; and the Government of the District of Columbia.

**7.77** Presidential messages generally are nothing more than brief transmittal statements. Among those of substantive significance are letters from Presidents Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower concerning national health insurance policies (83A-F10.1).

**7.78** Printed hearings comprise approximately 9 feet of the total amount of committee papers (80A-F9.1, 88A IFC.3, 89 IFC.2, 90 IFC.5). These hearings exist for the 80th (1947-48) and 88-90th (1963-68) Congresses. Topics focus on a wide variety of subjects, including matters relating to aviation, communications, the Federal Trade Commission, public health, railroad retirement provisions, and surface and water transportation.

**7.79** Final editions of committee calendars are present in committee papers for the 88th-90th Congresses (1963-68).

**7.80** The two and a half feet of executive session transcripts from the **Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations**, 1958-63, are filed with committee papers for the 91st Congress. The main subjects discussed were television quiz shows, "payola" and related deceptive methods in the broadcast field, and broadcast ratings.

**7.81** The heart of the committee's unbound records for this period are its **bill files**, which make up two-thirds of the total quantity. Bill files are arranged by type of legislation and thereunder in numerical order. The main set of bill files contains copies of bills and committee reports. Occasionally bill files are several inches thick, as is the case with files from the 80th Congress for both H.R. 2185 on proposed amendments to the Natural Gas Act and H.R. 2298 on amending the Interstate Commerce Act (80A-D6). In these cases the files also include background correspondence, proposed amendments, and/or transcripts of hearings.

**7.82** For the 83d (1953-54), 85th-87th(1957-62), and 89th-90th (1965-68) Congresses, sets of "legislative files" ranging in size from 5 to 20 inches per

Congress follow the main bill files. The "legislative files" for the 83rd Congress contain files on S. 2846 (Securities Exchange Act amendments), H.R. 5069 (Flammable Fabrics Act), and H.R. 5976 (Natural Gas Act amendment); those for the other Congresses are arranged by subject categories of health, transportation, consumer legislation, and/or energy with files thereunder in numerical public law order. These "legislative files" contain full documentation on the measure in question, including relevant pages from the *Congressional Record.*

## Committee on Industrial Arts and Expositions, 1903-27

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**7.83** The committee's origin can be traced to the select committee by the same name established in 1901 at the beginning of the 57th Congress with "jurisdiction on all matters (excepting those relating to the revenue and appropriations) referring to the centennial of the Louisiana purchase and to proposed expositions."[6] On November 9, 1903 its status was changed to that of a standing committee, but its jurisdiction remained unchanged. In 1911 its jurisdiction statement was changed to eliminate the reference to the centennial of the Louisiana purchase. On December 5, 1927, as part of H.Res. 7 the House voted not to reauthorize the committee. In the 1930's Clarence Cannon reported that the committee's former jurisdiction was "now largely exercised" by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.[7]

***Records of the Committee on Industrial Arts and Expositions, 58th-69th Congresses (1903-27)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 5 vols. | 1905-15 | 59th-63d |
| Docket Books | 5 vols. | 1905-15 | 59th-63d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 6 in. | 1907-9, 1919-21 | 60th-63d, 66th |
| Comm. Papers | 7 in. | 1903-11, 1913-15<br>1919-25 | 58th-61st, 63d<br>66th-68th |
| Bill Files | 10 in. | 1903-9, 1911-15<br>1919-27 | 58th-60th, 62d-63d<br>66th-69th |

TOTAL: 2 ft. and 10 vols. ( 1 ft.)

**7.84** **Minute books** exist for five Congresses only. The most complete entries are for meetings of the 59th Congress held in 1906. The volume for the 60th Congress (1907-9) contains full copies of bills pasted into the book. **Docket books** exist for the same five Congresses. The number of entries per book range from a high of 16 for the 59th Congress (1905-7) to a low of 3 for the 61st Congress (1909-11). Entries are arranged in chronological order.

**7.85** The subject emphasis of **petitions and memorials** shifted from Congress to Congress. The great majority of petitions and memorials relate to one of the following: Requests from the 60th and 63d Congresses (1907-9 and 1913-15) that exposition fair grounds be closed on Sundays (60A-H14.1, 63A-H10.1); the rivalry between partisans of San Francisco, San Diego, and New Orleans for the site of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (61A-H12.3); appeals for Federal sponsorship of an Negro-oriented exposition commemorating the semi-centennial of the end of American slavery (60A-H14.3, 61A-H12.2); endorsements of American participation in Italian expositions (61A-H12.1); opposition to the appointment of a commission and the appropriation of $7,500,000 for celebration of a century of Anglo-American peace (62A-H12.1); and support for the erection of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, as opposed to building a commemorative highway in his name (62A-H12.1).

**7.86** In quantity, nearly half of the **committee papers** consist of the prepublication composite copy of pamphlets for U.S. Government exhibits at the Brazilian Centennial Exposition, 1922-23, as well as background papers relating to the printing of the document (68A-F20.1). Another file consists of the manuscript copy of the final report on the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition (59A-F37.2). Other files include copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee (59A-F37.1, 61A-F23.5, 66A-F20.1), printed hearings from 1911 on the Olympic games (61A-F23.2) and on the proposed 1915 Panama Canal commemorative exposition (61A-F23.4), and presidential transmittals of documents concerning the Louisiana Purchase Exposition Company (58A-F38.1) and the 1909 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (61A-F23.1).

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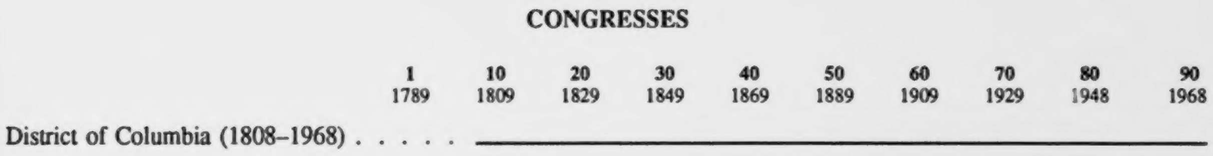
[6] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 57th Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 2, 1901, p. 8.

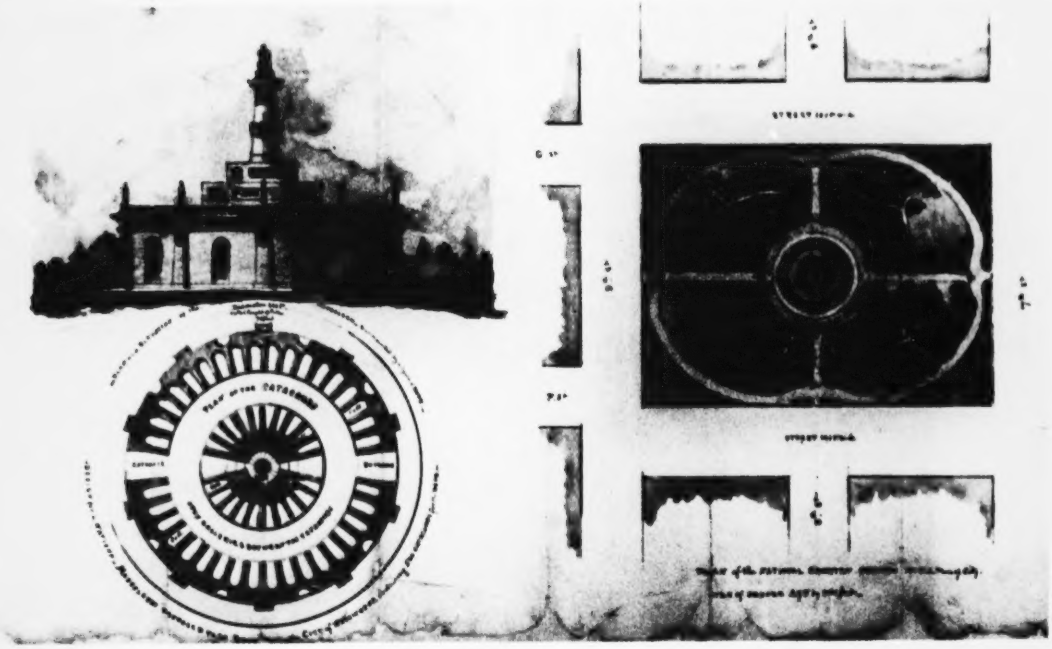
[7] Clarence Cannon, *Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States*, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1935), vol. 7, p. 840.

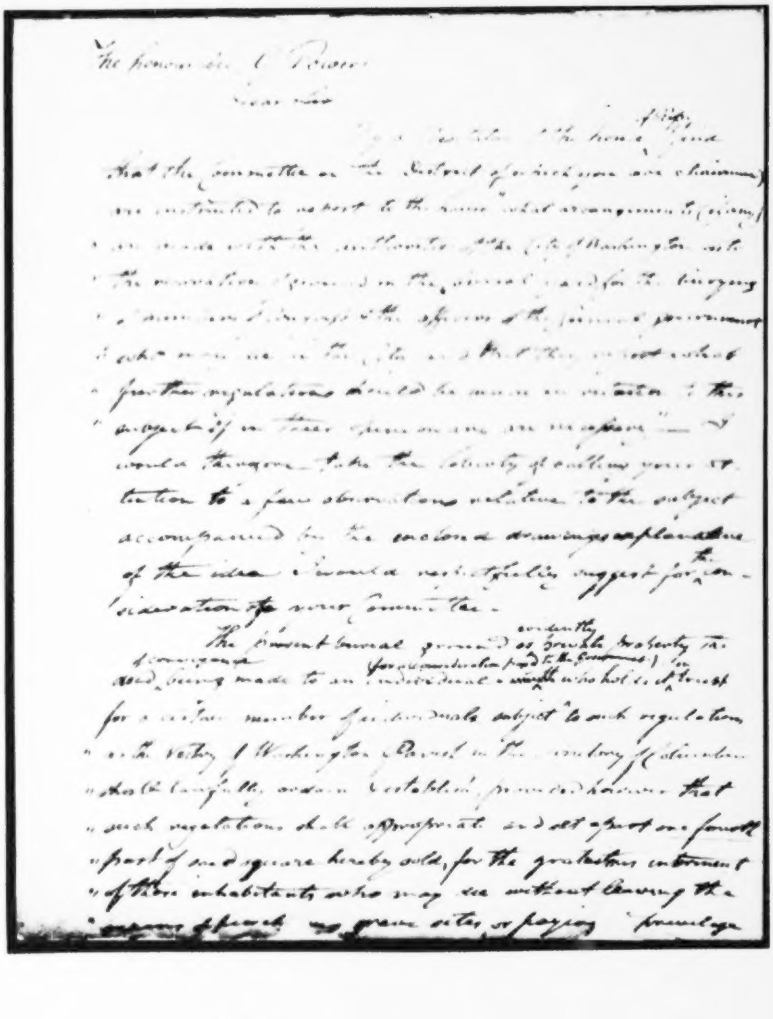
**7.87** Although **bill files** exist for nine Congresses, they generally consist of nothing more than printed bills, resolutions, and reports. Files for the 68th and 69th Congresses (1923-27) also contain of both manuscript and printed copies of reports as well as background correspondence (68A-D13, 69A-D13). The bill file for the 63d Congress (1913-15) primarily concerns efforts by R. R. Wright, president of the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youths, and others to secure Federal backing for an exposition to celebrate the semi-centennial of emancipation; the file includes brief notes on the subject from President Woodrow Wilson (63A-D9).

# Chapter 8

# RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE







The honorable G. Powers

Dear Sir

[illegible] of the house of Reps. I find that the Committee on the District of which you are chairman are instructed to report to the house what arrangements (if any) are made with the authorities of the City of Washington as to the [illegible] of ground in the [illegible] yard for the burying [illegible] of the officers of the General government who [illegible] in the City and that they report what further regulations should be made in relation to this subject if in their opinion any are necessary — I would therefore take the liberty of calling your attention to a few observations relative to the subject accompanied by the enclosed drawings explanatory of the idea I would respectfully suggest for the consideration of your Committee.

The present burial ground is evidently [illegible] property the conveyance being made to an individual [illegible] who holds it in trust for a certain number of individuals subject to such regulations as the Vestry of Washington Parish in the territory of Columbia shall lawfully ordain & establish, provided however that such regulations shall appropriate and set apart one fourth part of said square hereby sold, for the gratuitous interment of those inhabitants who may die without leaving the means of [illegible] grave sites or paying [illegible] privilege

Robert Mills submitted his 1830 proposal for a National Cemetery and a National Mausoleum to Gershom Powers, the chairman of the Committee on the District of Columbia. In his cover letter (page 1 is shown above) Mr. Mills envisions the cemetery as "the spot where would lie the remains of the great & the good, the patriots & the sages of our country". (21A-D4.5)

# CHAPTER 8

## RECORDS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMITTEE

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**8.1** Article I, section 8 of the Constitution gives the U.S. Congress power to exercise exclusive legislative control over the seat of Government. Until the 10th Congress (1807-09) specific matters relating to the District of Columbia either were handled in the House of Representatives by select committees or were referred directly to the Committee of the Whole House. On January 27, 1808, however, the House adopted a resolution proposed by Representative Philip Barton Key of Maryland to establish a seven-member standing committee for the District whose duty was "to take into consideration all petitions and memorials relating to the affairs of the District of Columbia, and referred to them by the House; and to report, from time to time, to the House."[1] In establishing this standing committee, the House sought "to simplify the District business, to save the forming of many committees, and to promote consistency and uniformity in the laws relating to the District."[2] The committee is third in seniority after Interstate and Foreign Commerce (1795) and Ways and Means (1802) among House committees that have survived unchanged to the present day.

**8.2** A week later Key, who had become the committee's first chairman, successfully led opposition in the House to a bill which would have moved the capital to Philadelphia. Shortly thereafter a North Carolina Congressman proposed that the committee be instructed to report to the House on whether housing could be found in the District for Federal institutions located elsewhere. Although the House failed to vote on the resolution, the committee took upon itself the expanded mandate of overseeing and recommending legislation regarding the development of the District of Columbia.

**8.3** As early as 1802 Congress had set up a city government for the District, and in the following decades had provided for the election of the city council and mayor by popular vote. From 1871 until 1874 Congress oversaw a territorial government for the District. In 1874 it revoked this measure of partial self-government and placed the District under the rule of an appointed three-member board of commissioners. From 1874 until 1975 when the District achieved self-government, Congress had primary responsibility for municipal laws for the District.

**8.4** In 1880 the House adopted a rule which gave the committee jurisdiction over areas other than appropriations relating to the District of Columbia. Over the years the committee reported on various municipal concerns including those involving streets, schools and teachers, railroads, police and fire departments, claims against the District Government, insurance, taxes, health and safety, liquor sales, incorporation of organizations and societies, and other matters that were the normal concerns of city and State governments. Since its creation the committee has shared jurisdiction on District concerns with other committees, and in particular with the Committees on Education and Labor, Interior, Banking and Currency, Judiciary, and Public Works.

**8.5** For the 90th Congress the committee's jurisdiction covered:

> (a) All measures relating to the municipal affairs of the District of Columbia in general, other than appropriations therefor, including— (b) Adulteration of foods and drugs. (c) Incorporation and organization of societies. (d) Insurance, executors, administrators, wills, and divorce. (e) Municipal code and amendments to the criminal and corporation laws. (f) Municipal and juvenile courts. (g) Public health and safety, sanitation, and quarantine regulations.

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[1] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 10th Cong., 1st sess., Jan. 27, 1808, p. 146.

[2] Asher C. Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States*, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), vol. IV, p. 816.

(h) Regulation of sale of intoxicating liquors. (i) Taxes and tax sales.[3]

**8.6** The records of the committee are described below in three chronological periods. The first begins with records from the first Congress of the committee's existence, the 10th (1807-09), and continues through those for the 45th Congress (1877-79), the Congress which formalized a Commissioner form of government for the District that lasted nearly a century. The second covers the 46th through the 79th Congresses (1879-1946), with the concluding date chosen to coincide with enactment of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. The third covers the period from the 80th through the 90th Congresses (1947-68).

***Records of the Committee on the District of Columbia, 10th-45th Congresses (1807-79)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 4 vols. | 1863-67, 1869-79 | 38th-39th, 41st-45th |
| Docket Books | 10 vols. | 1825-49, 1851-55,<br>1859-67, 1869-79 | 19th-30th, 32d-33d,<br>36th-39th, 41st-45th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 8 ft. | 1807-69, 1871-75<br>1877-79 | 10th-40th, 42nd-43d,<br>45th |
| Comm. Papers | 6 ft. | 1807-11, 1813-39<br>1841-51, 1853-79 | 10th-11th, 13th-25th,<br>27th-31st, 33d-45th |
| TOTAL: 14 ft. and 14 vols. (1 ft.) | | | |

**See also tables for 46th-90th Congresses after paras. 8.31 and 8.53.

**8.7** The earliest **minutes** are contained in combination minute/docket books for both the 38th Congress (1863-65) and the 39th Congress (1865-67). Minutes for the 41st through the 44th Congresses (1869-77) appear sequentially in a single volume filed with records of the 41st Congress. Minutes for the 45th Congress appear in a volume of minutes for the Committee on Roads and Canals filed under that committee with records of the 40th Congress.

**8.8** Minutes give the date, and often the time, of a committee meeting. They list those present, and indicate which measures were discussed and what was decided. In addition, they sometimes note which Members were assigned by the chair to consider particular petitions or memorials. Sometimes they provide the text of particular resolutions or amendments offered in committee. Although most committee minutes include limited information, entries for a number of meetings are relatively complete. However, even for relatively complete entries one rarely finds anything more detailed than the entry for the January 16, 1874, meeting which stated: "The Committee then took up the subject of street railways in the D.C., & heard arguments in behalf of the several proposed lines."

**8.9** The earliest committee **docket** is a bound volume containing entries from the 19th through the 26th Congresses (1825-41). Through the 21st Congress, entries are arranged alphabetically by subject for the petition, resolution, or bill in question. For the 22nd through the 26th Congresses, entries are recorded chronologically by date of receipt, as they are for subsequent Congresses. Typically a docket entry includes the date of introduction, the name of the Representative introducing the measure, the measure's subject matter, and "remarks," which may indicate the disposition of the document. The thickness of a particular docket volume does not necessarily reflect its content as relatively few pages of a volume may have been used.

**8.10** The extent of information in the "remarks" section varies considerably. Of the 48 docket entries for the 32d Congress (1851-53), information on disposition is given under "remarks" for only three entries. For the 42d Congress (1871-73) there are occasional annotations, with dates, such as "reported favorably & bill signed" or "reported adversely"; only rarely is there anything in the remarks column identifying the Member of the subcommittee to whom a particular measure was referred. For the 44th Congress (1875-77), on the other hand, information on referrals is usually entered under "remarks," but information concerning final disposition is not included.

**8.11** The National Archives holds nearly 8 feet of **petitions and memorials** covering the period 1807-79. More than 2 feet is made up of antislavery petitions from citizens outside Washington, DC, calling for the abolition of slavery and/or the slave trade in the District, 1823-58 (18A-F4.2, 19A-G4.2, 20A-G5.1, 21A-G5.1, 22A-G;5.2, 23A-G4.3, 24A-G4.2, 28A-G5.2, 29A-G3.3, 30A-G5.1, 31A-G4.1, 33A-G5.1, 35A-G4.8). Other matters in the District on which citizens from across the nation expressed their concern included the status of education in 1845 (29A-G3.2) and temperance practices, 1864-75 (38A-G4.1, 42A-H4.2, 42A-H4.14, 43A-H5.4).

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[3] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 334

**8.12** A number of petitions came from the mayor and/or members of the Common Council, City Council, Levy Court and other public officials in Washington, Georgetown, and Alexandria. Subjects included tax levies (11A-F3.4), police constables (11A-F3.1), lotteries (20A-G5.2), and town debt relief (29A-G3.1). Once the retrocession of the Virginia portion of the District occurred in 1846, few petitions from city officials in Alexandria were received.

**8.13** The size of the District of Columbia prompted many petitions. Petitions calling for retrocession to Virginia can be found (18A-F4.2, 29A-G3.1) as can one from 1874, asking for the repeal of the retrocession (43A-H5.4). Petitions from residents of Georgetown expressing interest in retrocession to Maryland also can be found (25A-G4.1, 36A-G4.1). In 1858 Georgetown's city fathers made clear their opposition to being ceded to Washington County (35A-G4.8), but in the 1870's some citizens of Georgetown asked that their city be merged with that of Washington City (43A-H5.4). Citizens of the city of Washington seemed to be much less interested in questions of retrocession and annexation than they were in territorial status (18A-F4.2); civil and political conditions in 1825 (19A-G4.3); judicial changes, 1837-72 (25A-G4.1, 28A-G5.4, 42A-H4.8); election by ward, 1811 (12A-F3) and ward boundaries, 1832 (22A-G5.3); election of corporation officers, especially police magistrates and constables, 1850 (31A-G4.2); poll taxes, 1852 (32A-G5.6); and expansion of suffrage provisions to include non-citizens, 1866 (39A-H6.1).

**8.14** In the economic sphere petitions focused on such things as exemptions from embargo and non-intercourse laws, 1809 (10A-F4.1). Some involved the question of whether banks should issue notes with denominations of less than $5 that were not backed by specie (27A-G5.3, 29A-G3.4, 32A-G5.6, 37A-G3.7). In addition some petitions called for the chartering, re-chartering and/or assistance to or for banks, 1810-38 (11A-F3.1, 11A-F3.2, 12A-F3.2, 23A-G4.1, 25A-G4.1), insurance companies, 1813-33 (13A-F3.1, 15A-G3.1, 23A-G4.4), turnpike companies, 1809-19 (11A-F3.3, 12A-F3.6, 15A-G3.1), canals and canal companies, 1829-48 (21A-G5.2, 22A-G5.3, 30A-G5.2), railroads and street car lines, 1833-73 (23A-G4.4, 32A-G5.3, 34A-G4.8, 35A-G4.4, 37A-G3.3, 38A-G4.1, 42A-H4.1), and other companies, 1841-74 (27A-G5.3, 30A-G5.2, 31A-G4.2, 32A-G5.5, 33A-G5.9, 34A-G4.3, 43A-H5.4). Episcopal Church leaders in both Alexandria and Washington petitioned for permission to conduct lotteries, 1809-10 (11A-F3.1, 11A-F3.4). Beginning in the mid-1860's, petitions involving railways often expressed concerns of citizens and property-owners about depot and/or track locations (38A-G4.1, 42A-H4.4, 43A-H5.2, 45A-H7.2). Petitions were also received concerning various tax matters (43A-H5.4).

**8.15.** The committee's public works concerns included improvements in navigation of the Potomac, 1809-64 (11A-F3.1, 12A-F3.4, 20A-G5.2, 31A-G4.2, 38A-G4.1); construction of bridges over the Potomac and the Eastern Branch, and/or eliminating tolls from the bridges, 1818-74 (15A-G3.1, 19A-G4.1, 22A-G5.1, 27A-G5.2, 30A-G5.2, 32A-G5.1, 33A-G5.3, 34A-G4.1, 35A-G4.3, 43A-H5.1); building of turnpikes, 1813-14 (13A-G3.2); street paving and grading, 1833-63 (23A-G4.4, 26A-G4.1, 28A-G5.3, 31A-G4.2, 32A-G5.5, 34A-G4.6, 36A-G4.1, 37A-G3.5); street lighting, 1851-61 (32A-G5.5, 35A-G4.7, 36A-G4.1); and assurance of water supplies, 1851-55 (32A-G5.5, 33A-G5.8).

**8.16** Because the committee had jurisdiction over the incorporation of societies and organizations in the District of Columbia, it received petitions and/or constitutions and by-laws from fraternal, self-help, and public-assistance organizations. During the years 1809-45 the committee considered requests from the Washington Navy Yard Mechanical Society (11A-F3.2), the Masonic Lodge of Alexandria (14A-F3.3), the Mechanic's Relief Society of Alexandria (27A-G5.3), and the Female Union Benevolent Society of Washington City (28A-G5.4), among others. Requests for incorporation came from the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (15A-G3.1), the Washington National Monument Society (23A-G4.4), the Metropolis Theatre (23A-G4.4), the Young Men's Christian Association (33A-G5.5), the Washington United Fire Department (34A-G4.2), and the East Washington Library Association of Washington City (36A-G4.1).

**8.17** Petitions relating to education included those from the Georgetown Lancaster Society (12A-F3.6, 22A-G5.3), Columbian College (18A-F4.2, 27A-G5.3, 35A-G4.6), Washington College (12A-F3.3, 20A-G5.2), Georgetown College (22A-G5.3, 23A-G4.4), the Orphan Asylum and Female Free School of Alexandria (22A-G5.3), and the Home for the Relief of Friendless Women and Children (38A-G4.1). Other petitions on schools and the educational system in the

District, dating from 1811 to 1860, are in 12A-F3.5, 29A-G3.2, 30A-G5.2, 31A-G4.2, 36A-G4.1.

**8.18** Petitions relating to health concerns included those calling for the establishment of an asylum for the mentally ill, which later became St. Elizabeths Hospital, 1827-51 (20A-G5.2, 28A-G5.4, 32A-G5.6). Also, there were calls for the establishment of a quarantine system and a marine hospital, (20A-G5.2). Presbyterians requested a cemetery in the District in 1852 (32A-G5.6). Toward the end of the Civil War an army surgeon, noting that the population of the District had doubled since 1861, called for the organization of a board of health for the District (38A-G4.1).

**8.19** Petitions also involved imprisonment for debt (30A-G5.2). Others urged the repeal of the law permitting the whipping of women and their imprisonment without being charged with a crime (29A-G3.4). There were also petitions concerning the need for a new jail (27A-G5.1), conditions at the Federal penitentiary (25A-G4.1, 26A-G4.1), and the licensing of taverns and/or outright prohibition, 1842-53 (27A-G5.1, 32A-G5.5).

**8.20** Some petitioners objected to a law forbidding slave owners from transferring slaves between counties within the District of Columbia (12A-F3.6). In 1834 the U.S. Marshal for the District of Columbia petitioned the committee regarding a bill of $1,500 for housing runaway "negroes" in the public jail (23A-G4.4). A petition from white workmen in 1852 complained against the hiring of "negroes" in the public service as messengers and laborers (32A-G5.6). Another petition was from 175 discontent mechanics and laborers who had been discharged from employment on the Capitol because the authorized appropriations had been expended (32A-G5.6). During the Reconstruction era 4,872 "colored laborers" signed a printed form asking that persons having government contracts be prohibited from discriminating on account of race (40A-H4.1). In 1878 "colored citizens" requested that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to make $75,000 available to finance emigration to the West (45A-H7.1).

**8.21.** Petitions for compensation and/or raises in wages presented comparative data on salary levels for occupations such as guards at the penitentiary (26A-G4.1), doorkeeper of the Executive Mansion (29A-G3.4), servants in the Navy (31A-G4.2), crier of the Circuit Court (35A-G4.2), firemen (42A-H4.20), and lamplighters (43A-H5.4). Other petitions dealt with claims for services rendered: Road resurfacing (30A-G5.2), use of property during the Civil War by Federal troops (37A-G3.7), and payment for a combined fire alarm and police telegraph constructed for joint use of the city and the Federal Government (38A-G4.1). Petitions in the 1860's concerned the extension of the Capitol grounds (37A-G3.1), and the construction of wooden hospital buildings in Judiciary Square (37A-G3.2).

**8.22** Some petitions and memorials are filed with committee papers. On occasion petitions and memorials include House resolutions directing the committee to inquire into the expediency of acting on certain subjects, such as upgrading 4 1/2 Street from City Hall to the Arsenal in 1839 (26A-G4.1). Occasionally a committee report can also be found with the petitions as is the case concerning an 1858 requested change in status for the Congressional Cemetery (35A-G4.8). Sometimes maps (28A-G5.3, 31A-G4.2, 33A-G5.3), drawings (35A-G4.4, 42A-H4.3) or other supporting documents were submitted as part of the petition or memorial.

**8.23** **Committee papers** include some petitions and memorials, as well as resolutions, manuscripts of documents later printed as committee reports, supplemental correspondence, and copies of printed bills, documents and reports (sometimes with annotations). Committee reports and documents are available as a part of the *Congressional Serial Set*. Of the 33 Congresses for which committee papers exist during this period, 29 contain files of an inch or less.

**8.24** Most committee papers have as their basis petitions from residents of the District. For the 10th Congress (1807-09) these include requests from an individual hoping to take advantage of the provisions of an insolvency law, from inhabitants of Alexandria and Washington asking for the construction of a turnpike road, from stockholders of an Alexandria marine insurance company asking that the company's powers be extended, and from slave owners asking that they might be permitted to move their slaves within the various jurisdictions of the District (10A-C3.1). For the 11th Congress (1809-11) committee papers consist entirely of a single report on banks (11A-C4.1). In fact, documents on banks form a significant proportion of committee papers for the other early Congresses and continue to do so to a lesser extent from

1815 until 1863 (14A-C3.1, 15A-D3.1, 16A-D5.1, 27A-D5.1, 28A-D5.1, 37A-E4.1). One such record is a testimonial letter from James Monroe to William Marbury citing the valuable service banks of the District had performed in financing one of Andrew Jackson's military operations (14A-C3.1). Another item documents the growth and development of incorporated banks in the District, 1811-1819 (16A-D5.1).

**8.25** Committee papers reflect congressional interest in the full range of governmental issues affecting the District of Columbia. These included questions involving municipal charters (15A-D3.1, 42A-F7.9), judicial and court matters (16A-D5.2, 18A-C3.1, 23A-D4.8, 24A-D4.2, 25A-D5.1, 29A-D4.1, 34A-D5.2, 35A-D5.3), civil and criminal code revision (21A-D4.2), retrocession (25A-D5.1, 29A-D4.1), suffrage (28A-D5.4), and territorial government for the District and/or the election of a delegate from the District to Congress (19A-D5.2, 21A-D4.5, 22A-D5.2, 37A-E4.2). Printed volumes of acts and resolutions of the first and second legislative assemblies of the District of Columbia are to be found in committee papers for the 42d Congress (1871-73). Beginning in the mid-1870's communications with Commissioners take on major significance (43A-F8.6, 44A-F7.1, 45A-F8.3). During the 1870's two joint select committees of Congress were established to investigate the affairs of the District of Columbia. Additional information on them can be found in Chapter 23.

**8.26** Files reflecting the committee's interest in the maintenance of public order and public safety cover such topics as fire companies (17A-C5.1, 29A-D4.3); the election of sheriffs (20A-D5.1); police matters (27A-D5.1, 43A-F8.4); prison/jail construction and/or conditions, 1823-75 (18A-C3.1, 23A-D4.6, 41A-F7.2, 43A-F8.8); building and operating of the Federal penitentiary in the District (19A-D5.1, 29A-D4.3, 35A-D5.1); building an asylum for the mentally ill (25A-D5.1, 36A-D5.1, 36A-D5.2); health, health facilities, and diseases, 1827-75 (20A-D5.1, 36A-D5.6, 40A-F7.6, 43A-F8.3); cemetery changes (21A-D4.5, 28A-D5.4); donations of wood for the poor during winter (21A-D4.5, 23A-D4.8); imprisonment for debt (24A-D4.2); and reform schools or other housing for juvenile delinquents (39A-F6.2, 43A-F8.9).

**8.27** Pre-Civil War racial concerns of the committee can be seen in papers concerning both slaves and free blacks. Some of these papers relate to the imprisonment of free blacks and runaway slaves (19A-D5.3, 20A-D5.1). Others concern slaves in the District (20A-D5.1, 22A-D5.2).

**8.28** In the area of education the committee concerned itself with the issue of free schools (23A-D4.4, 29A-D4.3) as well as specific institutions of higher education, 1829-69 (21A-D4.3, 22A-D5.2, 35A-D5.5, 40A-F7.1). A map among these records shows the grounds of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, later known as Gallaudet College, with annotations as to possible land purchases (38A-E5.1). In the post-Civil War period the committee paid special attention to "colored" schools in Washington and Georgetown (40A-F7.6, 42A-F7.9).

**8.29** Matters involving finance included the sale of public lots in Washington (15A-D3.1); lotteries (16A-D5.3, 20A-D5.1, 23A-D4.8); real estate concerns (20A-D5.1); relief for the corporate entities of Washington, Alexandria and Georgetown, 1835-61 (24A-D4.1, 34A-D5.1, 35A-D5.1, 36A-D5.1); and corporate notes in circulation (23A-D4.2). Monetary claims handled by the committee included one from a Treasury Department employee injured while saving records during the fire of 1833 (23A-D4.3). Individual documents include an undated enumeration of dwelling houses within Washington (16A-D5.3); a table showing the comparative value of domestic and foreign produce from Alexandria and Georgetown, 1809-1819 (16A-D5.3); an 1834 letter from William Elliot outlining duties and past payments of surveyors of Washington (23A-D4.8); and an explanation noting the sources by which Washington received money in the 1840's and the purposes for which the city disbursed its funds (28A-D5.2). Business matters are covered in records on incorporations for gas companies in 1846 and 1860 (29A-D4.1, 36A-D5.3).

**8.30** Among documents which reflect committee interest in public works are those relating to improvements in navigation of the Potomac (17A-C5.1), Washington harbor developments (42A-F7.4), road and street improvements (17A-C5.2, 21A-D4.1, 22A-D5.1, 23A-D4.5, 24A-D4.2, 27A-D5.1, 28A-D5.3, 29A-D4.1, 30A-D5.1, 42A-F7.9, 45A-F8.1), turnpikes (35A-D5.2), canals and canal companies (19A-D5.5, 21A-D4.1, 29A-D4.1, 30A-D5.1, 37A-E4.3, 42A-F7.2, 41A-F7.4, 43A-F8.1), bridges (23A-D4.6, 24A-D4.2, 29A-D4.1, 30A-D5.1, 34A-D5.1, 34A-D5.3, 39A-F6.1, 41A-F7.1, 42A-F7.2), the Washington Aqueduct (34A-D5.4, 35A-D5.1, 40A-F7.7, 41A-F7.3), a George

Washington monument (24A-D4.2, 36A-D5.7, 42A-F7.9), railroads and street cars (35A-D5.4, 42A-F7.8, 43A-F8.2, 43A-F8.10, 43A-F8.11, 43A-F8.12), markets (42A-F7.7, 45A-F8.2) and public parks (39A-F6.3), as well as correspondence with members of the Board of Public Works (43A-F8.5). Included in the collection is an 1853 printed booklet written by Robert Mills on water-works for Washington (33A-D3.2).

**8.31** The two thickest files of committee records for this period consist of investigative reports concerning problems associated with the Washington Aqueduct, 1869-70 (41A-F7.3) and the Board of Audit, 1876-77 (44A-F7.1).

***Records of the Committee on the District of Columbia, 46th-79th Congresses (1879-1946)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 17 vols. | 1879-81, 1885-1915 | 46th, 49th-63d |
| Docket Books | 20 vols. | 1879-1923 | 46th-67th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 9 ft. | 1879-85, 1889-91, 1893-1903, 1907-17, 1921-23, 1939-41 | 46th-48th, 51st, 53d-57th, 60th-64th 67th, 76th-77th |
| Comm. Papers | 25 ft. | 1879-81, 1883-87, 1893-1903, 1905-17, 1919-31, 1935-36, 1939-46 | 46th, 48th-49th, 53d-57th, 59th-64th, 66th-71st, 74th, 76th-79th |
| Bill Files | 31 ft. | 1903-17, 1919-46 | 58th-64th, 66th-79th |
| | TOTAL: 65 ft. and 37 vols. (4 ft.) | | |

*See tables for 10th-45th Congresses after paras. 8.6 and for the 80th-90th Congresses after para. 8.53.

**8.32** Initially **minute books** for this period were of the same format as those discussed earlier. By the early 20th century, however, with the use of the typewriter, minutes had begun to serve as a complement to stenographic transcripts of hearings.

**8.33** Beginning with the 50th Congress (1887-89) the first entries in each volume recorded subcommittee assignments. Those for the 50th Congress were: Judiciary and Claims; Ways and Means; Education, Labor and Charitable Institutions; and Corporations, Streets, Avenues and Improvements. For the 61st Congress (1909-11) the number had increased to six: Judiciary; Ways and Means; Education, Labor and Charities; Street Railways, Streets and Avenues; Steam Railways; and Incorporations.

**8.34** The minute book for the 54th Congress (1895-97) and several subsequent volumes include charts showing which Members attended which full committee meetings. Within the minute book for the 55th Congress (1897-99) the committee clerk inserted a newspaper clipping from the July 2, 1898, Evening Star detailing all of the committee's accomplishments for the session. The newspaper noted that 67 bills, a record high for the committee, had been reported to and passed the House.

**8.35** Most **docket books** for this period begin with alphabetical subject indexes. The volume for the 64th Congress (1915-17) contains an additional index by the names of Representatives introducing measures. Through the 61st Congress (1909-11) the docket format continues to be a single chronological listing of entries with information on the date of introduction, the name of the Representative who presented the measure, the subject matter, and remarks. For subsequent Congresses the format changes from strict chronological listings to separate sections for different types of measures (i.e., those for H.R., H.J. Res., H. Con. Res., H. Res., S., and S.J. Res.).Information in the "remarks" section, as with the 55th and 56th Congresses (1897-1901), sometimes includes a legislative history for nearly every measure introduced. Often under "remarks" there will be a note as to which subcommittee received the measure, and the date the measure was submitted to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia for their comment.

**8.36** **Petitions and memorials** for this period play a much less significant role vis-a-vis committee activities than they did for the earlier period. Although the greatest number of petitioners were concerned with prohibition, 1879-1941 (46A-H7.1, 60A-H7.11, 60A-H7.15, 61A-H6.4, 62A-H5.2, 62A-H5.5, 76A-H7.1) and Sunday closings, 1889-1942 (51A-H7.1, 55A-H4.5, 60A-H7.14, 61A-H6.5, 62A-H5.4, 62A-H5.5, 63A-H4.3, 64A-H4.1, 64A-H4.4, 77A-H4.1), these subjects were outside of the committee's main interests. The overwhelming number of petitioners on these two subjects came from outside the District, Maryland and Virginia.

**8.37** The emphasis of petitions on the prohibition issue evolved from requests for regulation of the liquor industry to demands for an outright ban on the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors within the District. One exhibit submitted to support the case for restricting the number of establishments licensed to sell liquor was a 1913 map of Washington which used black dots and red squares to show the proximity of places selling liquor to public school buildings

(62A-H5.2). With the exception of the petitions to the 77th Congress (1941-42) the overwhelming majority of the petitions favored prohibition. By contrast the great majority of petitions to the committee concerning Federally enforced Sunday business closures quote civil libertarian arguments against the proposed measure.

**8.38** Residents of the District of Columbia were greatly interested in railroads—the locations of their depots, tracks, and crossings; the services they offered the community; and right-of-ways (51A-H7.2, 51A-H7.3, 53A-H6.1, 54A-H7.3, 54A-H7.6, 55A-H4.6). During the 51st Congress (1889-91) two petition drives generated thousands of responses. Both related to the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad. One petition included among its demands the removal of surface tracks from 6th Street and the Mall (51A-H7.2); the other called for retention of the railroad's depot-on-the-Mall (51A-H7.2). On another matter, the president and senior officials at Howard University forwarded a letter from over 300 students and faculty members requesting congressional intervention to alleviate transportation inconvenience caused by the lack of a uniform transfer system (55A-H4.6).

**8.39** Another subject that generated thousands of signatures from District residents was a petition to the 46th Congress (1879-81) calling attention to the "apparent inability" of the police force to deal with an increasing crime rate and asking that the Metropolitan Police force be increased to 300 privates, plus officers, and that the criminal code of the District be amended to make rape a capital offense (46A-H7.1). Other police-related petitions concerned an 8-hour day for policemen (55A-H4.2) and a police and firemen's pension and retirement bill (62A-H5.5).

**8.40** While educational concerns such as the establishment of kindergartens (47A-H6.2), night schools (48A-H7.1), and an M Street High School for "colored" students (62A-H5.5) led several individuals to write to Congress, a greater number of petitions related to the establishment of playgrounds (60A-H7.12, 61A-H6.3, 62A-H5.5). One such petition came from Lillian D. Wald of the Henry Street Settlement in New York who wrote in 1912 supporting the passage of a bill appropriating funds for the playgrounds of Washington (62A-H5.5). The Chamber of Commerce made clear its opposition to a playground bill unless the Federal Government was willing to assume half of the expenses for land purchases (62A-H5.5).

**8.41** Few documents for this period related to segregation in places of commerce, but one referred by Representative Edward de Veaux Morrell from a Philadelphia Republican club praised the Congressman for his introduction of a bill against "Jim Crow Cars" (57A-H4.2). Documents on women's issues covered such subjects as prostitution (47A-H6.2, 62A-H5.3), including a letter from the female officers of the Washington Society for Moral Education (47A-H6.2); hours and labor conditions for working women (53A-H6.1, 62A-H5.5); raising the age of consent for girls from 16 to 18 (54A-H7.1, 55A-H4.4); divorce provisions (55A-H4.1); and ill-treatment of women during a suffrage parade (63A-H4.4).

**8.42** Other subjects in the petitions file range from a letter from the Commissioners recommending the reintroduction of certain bills in the 62d Congress, 1911-13 (62A-H5.5) to matters relating to sidewalk vendors (53A-H6.1), vivisection (54A-H7.6), and water filters (53A-H6.1).

**8.43** It is difficult to characterize succinctly **committee papers** since they vary greatly in format from one Congress to another. Indeed, the National Archives holds no committee papers for many Congresses in session during the years 1881-1938. Significant kinds of records comprising the committee papers include files of bills, investigative reports, and executive communications—primarily annual reports for public utilities and transportation entities. Subcommittee journals for the 46th and 55th Congresses (1879-81, 1897-99) combine features for minute and docket volumes; both journals are arranged by subcommittee. The volume for the 46th Congress includes a full set of minutes from the Subcommittee on Codification of the Laws of the District of Columbia.

**8.44** Although a formal category for bill files was not established until the 58th Congress (1903-05), among the committee papers for the 54th through 57th Congresses (1895-1907) are bills arranged by type of legislation and thereunder in numerical order (54A-F7.1, 55A-F6.2 through 55A-F6.6, 56A-F6.2, 57A-F5.1). Often a bill's legislative history will be written on the outside of the folder or envelope containing the bill; sometimes support letters and other documents are found along with the printed text of the bill itself.

**8.45** Manuscript copies of investigative hearings and/or reports include those relating to the District

Commissioners (46A-F8.1), steam and street railroads (49A-F8.3), the feasibility and propriety of filtering the water supply of Washington (56A-F6.3), insurance companies and the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (62A-F4.3), the government of the District (63A-F5.2), the Washington Railway and Electric Company (63A-F5.6), and the local milk industry (76A-F8.3).

**8.46** Corporate annual reports, generally filed with executive communications, are found for a number of Congresses, 1897-1946 (55A-F6.1, 56A-F6.1, 63A-F5.1, 66A-F5.2, 67A-F5.1, 68A-F6.1, 76A-F8.1, 77A-F8.1, 78A-F7.3, 79A-F7.1). Companies for which reports exist include Capital Traction; Metropolitan Railroad; City and Suburban Railway of Washington; Columbia Railway; Capital Railway; Washington and Great Falls Electric Railway; Anacostia and Potomac River Railroad; Brightwood Railway; Washington Gas Light; Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone; Potomac Electric Power; Capital Transit; and Georgetown Barge, Dock, Elevator and Railway. Printed copies of these reports often accompany the manuscript originals.

**8.47** Various other records are also found among committee papers. Printed legislative calendars exist for the 76th, 77th and 78th Congresses, 1939-44 (76A-F8.4, 77A-F8.3, 78A-F7.8). Printed and nonprinted material on railroad and street car lines concerns such subjects as fares and transfers (53A-F7.1), track and depot locations and grade crossings, 1893-1915 (53A-F7.4, 56A-F6.3, 57A-F5.1, 63A-F5.5); and the incorporation of the Washington Heights Traction Railway Company with its implications for the development of Anacostia (54A-F7.2). Similarly, both printed and nonprinted material exists regarding alleys, slum clearance, and the Alley Dwelling Authority, 1893-1944 (53A-F7.7, 63A-F5.4, 78A-F7.2, 78AF7.5, 78A-F7.8).

**8.48** Committee and subcommittee prints of hearings and/or reports exist on the police and the fire departments, 1905-21 (59A-F7.1, 60A-F8.1, 66A-F5.1), schools (59A-F7.1); water supply (61A-F6.2, 60A-F8.1, 66A-F5.1, 66A-F5.2); the District Government (60A-F8.1, 66A-F5.1, 69A-F7.1, 70A-F6.1); firearms (68A-F6.2), intoxicants (68A-F6.2), public health (71A-F6.1), traffic (74A-F7.1); and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Act (76A-F8.2). Manuscript copies of hearings, some of them carbons and some of them originals, include those on sanitation, 1941-44 (77A-F8.2, 78A-F7.5); rodent extermination (77A-F8.2); the police (77A-F8.2); traffic, 1941-46 (77A-F8.2, 79A-F7.2); crime (78A—F7.4); military training in high schools (78A-F7.4); decentralization of the Federal Government (78A-F7.4); tuberculosis and social diseases (78A-F7.7); child care (79A-F7.2); epilepsy (79A-F7.2); the District jail (79A-F7.2); daylight savings time (79A-F7.2); and the location of television towers (79A-F7.2).

**8.49** Other subjects in the committee papers file include such things as a letter reporting on George Washington's ideas about public reservations in the District (56A-F6.3), a letter concerning public demand for "Jim Crow" cars (61A-F6.1), and a committee print on "Methods of Municipal Taxation and Assessment in the District of Columbia, completed to and including the 59th Congress" (60A-F8.4).

**8.50** Despite the fact that some of the committee papers for the 54th through the 57th Congresses (1895-1907) appear to be virtually indistinguishable from bill files, a separate category for **bill files** begins only with the 58th Congress (1903-05). Bill files appear for all subsequent Congresses, with the exception of the 65th Congress (1917-1919) for which neither bill files, committee papers nor petitions exist.

**8.51** The most common type of arrangement for bill files is by type of legislation—House bills, House Joint Resolutions, House Concurrent Resolutions, House Resolutions, Senate bills and Senate Joint Resolutions—and thereunder in numerical order. The basic file for a particular measure consists either of the bill as introduced and ordered printed, or as it was amended and placed on either the Union or House Calendar. The files may contain reports, transcripts of hearings (in manuscript and sometimes in printed format) correspondence, and accompanying papers. Occasionally the file may contain letters, telegrams or petitions expressing support or disapproval of the measure in question. Bill files vary in quantity from Congress to Congress ranging from negligible to approximately 2 feet for some Congresses.

**8.52** For some Congresses, notably the 61st (1909-11) and the 63d (1913-15), the envelope containing a particular file has been annotated to provide a full legislative history of the measure (date introduced and by whom, date referred to the Commissioners and their reply, date referred to the appropriate subcommittee, date of hearings, and subsequent actions). For the 64th Congress (1915-17) most copies of hearings are in manuscript format; for the 66th Congress (1919-20) only printed copies of hearings are included.

**8.53** Bill files are of special worth for the 77th through the 79th Congress (1941-46) because few hearings were printed during World War II. Many subjects were covered by unpublished hearings during these years. For example, the boundary between Virginia and the District vis-a-vis National Airport was the subject of two bills, H.R. 1045 (77A-D8) and H.R. 2097 (79A-D9); equal access to public accommodations was covered by H.R. 1995 (78A-D6); the regulation of boxing contests prompted H.R. 53 (78A-D6). Other subjects include rent, housing and/or alley clearance; the regulation of barbers vis-a-vis Sunday closings; insurance rates; hospital facilities, disease control, and health regulations for restaurants; alcoholic beverage licenses and law enforcement; child-care centers and employment standards for women and children; salary adjustments for teachers, policemen, and firemen; the duties of the Board of Public Welfare; and liquidation of the Washington Railway and Electric Company.

***Records of the Committee on the District of Columbia, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | negligible | 1959-60, 1967-68 | 86th, 90th |
| Comm. Papers | 15 ft. | 1947-60, 1963-68 | 80th-86th, 88th-90th |
| Bill Files | 67 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 82 ft. | | |

*See also tables for 10th-79th Congresses after paras. 8.6 and 8.31.

**8.54** The National Archives holds no minute or docket books for thisperiod. Nor, with two exceptions, does it hold any **petitions and memorials**. One is a 1959 concurrent resolution from the Senate of the Territory of Hawaii expressing support for the aspirations of the citizens of the District for a measure of self-government (86A-H4.1). The other is a transmittal with 286 signatures submitted by People's Republican Committee of the District of Columbia in 1967 in support of a particular homerule position (90 DC.4).

**8.55** Since the Committee on the District of Columbia still has a considerable body of materials which have not yet been turned over the National Archives, it is possible that additional records, including **committee papers**, will eventually be added to the collection in the National Archives.For the most part committee papers for this period are limited to executive communications (mostly reports of agencies, corporations, organizations, and the District Government submitted to Congress in fulfillment of statutory obligations); printed final edition legislative committee calendars; annual reports of the National Capital Housing Authority (typewritten for the earlier years, printed for the later years); and copies of printed committee and subcommittee hearings. The file for Executive Communication No. 1374 from the 88th Congress (88 DC.2) consists of 19 inches of material which comprises at least a third of the total footage of executive communications. This file consists of individual reports from institutions, organizations, corporations, and associations which held real property exempt from taxation in the District of Columbia.

**8.56** The remaining committee papers at the National Archives consist primarily of the files for two subcommittees: the **Subcommittee on Crime and Law Enforcement in the District of Columbia**, 1949-1950 (81A-F4.2, 5 ft.) and the **Subcommittee on the Taxicab Industry in the District of Columbia**, 1957-58 (85A-F4.4, 5 ft.).

**8.57** After 1946 bill files form the core of the committee records and reflect its legislative activities. For the 89th Congress (1965-66) the committee acted upon 299 House bills and joint resolutions and 19 Senate-passed measures. During that Congress the committee and its subcommittees held 109 scheduled meetings, 62 of which were open hearings. Subjects considered included:

> anticrime legislation and antichurch picketing; authorization for new 14th Street highway bridge; new regulations for certified public accountants; bills establishing a public city college and vocational and technical school; a bail agency; work release program for prisoners; rapid rail transit; minimum wage; revenue; divorce; uniform administrative procedures; motor vehicle insurance; home rule; increased pay for police, firemen, and teachers; overtime pay for police and firemen; and teachers' retirement increase; and transfer of court functions to the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions, with increase in number of judges thereof.[4]

Except for home rule, bills on all the topics mentioned above were given approval by an overwhelming majority of the committee.

**8.58** The composition of bill files changed somewhat during the eleven Congresses in question (1947-

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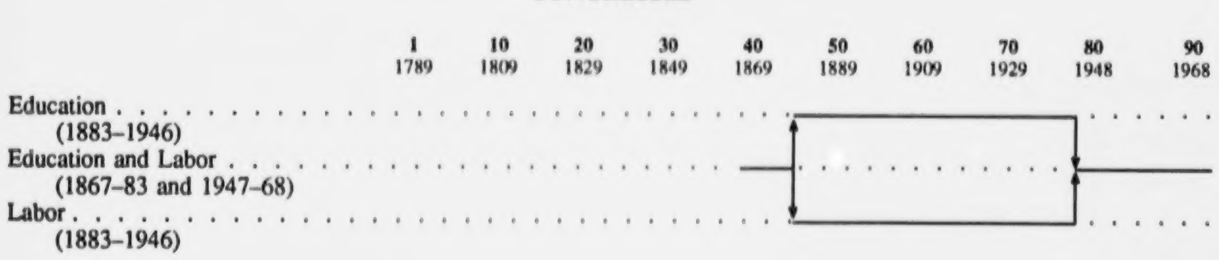
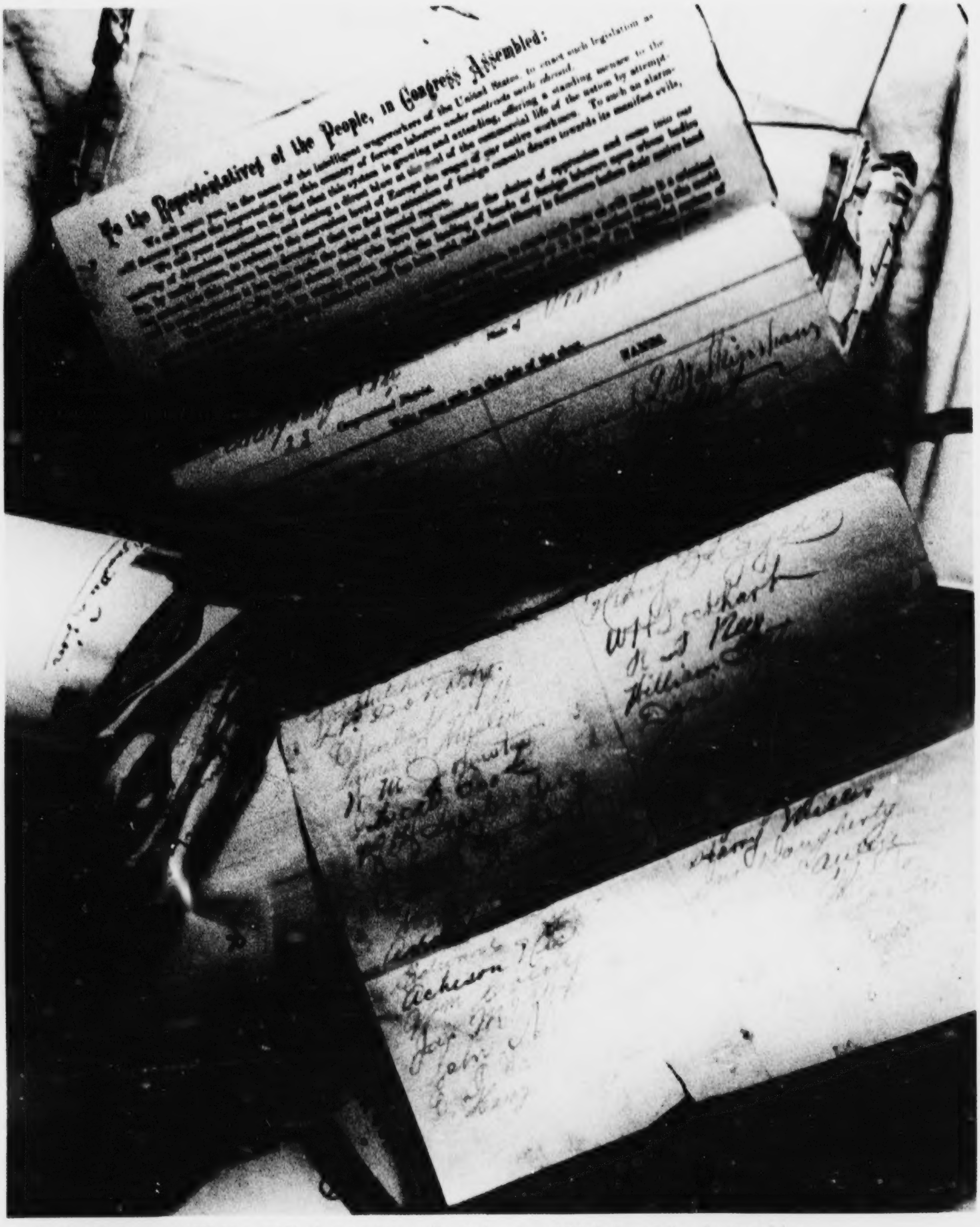
[4] *United States House of Representatives Legislative Calendar: Committee on the District of Columbia*, 89th Cong. — Final Calendar, Oct. 22, 1966 [No. 10], p. 8.

68). For the early years the bill files are made up almost exclusively of printed copies of bills, reports, public laws, and occasionally hearings. With but few exceptions the only non-printed materials in these files prior to the 87th Congress (1961-62) are copies, generally either mimeographed or carbons, of hearings transcripts. Bill files for the 87th through the 90th Congresses (1961-68) include a limited amount of background support correspondence, in particular copies of letters from the Commissioners received by the committee as executive communications.

# Chapter 9

# RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND LABOR


CONGRESSES
1
1789
10
1809
20
1829
30
1849
40
1869
50
1889
60
1909
70
1929
80
1948
90
1968
Education
(1883–1946)
Education and Labor
(1867–83 and 1947–68)
Labor
(1883–1946)



To the Representatives of the People, in Congreſs Assembled:

*During the 48th Congress (1883-85) over 10 inches of petitions calling for laws to prohibit the importation of contract laborers were referred to the Committee on Labor. (48A-H13)*

# CHAPTER 9

## RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

### *Introduction*

**9.1.** The powers granted to Congress under the Constitution did not include the regulation of either education or labor, and during its first hundred years Congress passed little legislation in these areas. Since then legislation affecting these areas has generally been based on the common defense, general welfare, or commerce clauses of Article I.

**9.2** The first standing Committee on Education and Labor was established just after the Civil War. In 1867 Representative Jehu Baker of Illinois submitted a resolution instructing the Select Committee on Rules to inquire into the expediency of establishing a committee on labor, because, he said, ". . . in view of the greater liberty and larger recognition of manhood which have followed the suppression of the rebellion, it is eminently fitting that the Government should be placed, if possible, in a better relation to the working people of the country."[1] The Select Committee on Rules considered the resolution and submitted a rule establishing a committee on education and labor, citing the recent establishment of a federal office of education as justification for adding the educational jurisdiction to that originally proposed. The following rule was adopted, thereby creating the Committee on Education and Labor:

> Rule—There shall be appointed at each Congress a Committee on Education and Labor, to consist of nine members, to whom shall be referred all petitions, bills, reports, and resolutions on those subjects, and who shall from time to time report thereon.[2]

**9.3** At the opening of the 48th Congress in 1883, the Rules Committee proposed to amend the House rules by dropping "and Labor" from the name of the Committee on Education and Labor (thereby leaving a committee on education), and creating a new committee on labor. During the floor debate over the proposal, Representative Albert Willis, a member of the Education and Labor Committee, argued that labor and education were closely related, education being the primary source of improvement for the industrial classes, so the committee should be left intact.[3] Representative John O'Neill of Missouri argued for splitting the committee so as to create a separate committee to consider matters affecting the working classes, "a committee in this House to which the representatives of the laboring element can submit their claims." He said, "There must be a vent through which the feelings of that element can reach the law-making power. You do not want this terrible rumbling and uneasiness to culminate as it did formerly in the celebrated railroad strike. . . . Give them then the right to be heard."[4] The rules were subsequently changed to provide for the Committee on Education and the Committee on Labor, both of which functioned from 1883 until 1946.

**9.4** By the end of World War II there were 48 standing committees in the House; in order to reduce the number of committees and increase the efficiency of operation, the jurisdictions of many of the committees were consolidated under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Under that act, which reduced the total number of standing committees to 18, the Committees on Education and on Labor were combined to form the Committee on Education and Labor. Although the combination of jurisdictions in this committee has persisted through the 100th Congress, the debate over the combination has not ended. Testimony before the 93d Congress Select Committee on Committees (1973-74) suggested that recent increases in education-oriented legislation had again raised the question of whether the committee should be split into an education committee and a labor committee.

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[1] *Congressional Globe*, 40th Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 20, 1867, p. 225.

[2] *Congressional Globe*, 40th Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 21, 1867, p. 264.

[3] *Congressional Record*, 48th Cong., 1st sess., p. 194, Dec. 19, 1883.

[4] *Congressional Record*, 48th Cong., 1st sess., p. 195, Dec. 19, 1883.

## Committee on Education and Labor (1867-83)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**9.5** The Committee on Education and Labor was created in 1867 and functioned until 1883, when its jurisdiction was split between a committee on education and a committee on labor.

**9.6** The committee's jurisdiction included all legislation concerning education and labor. The committee considered legislation concerning educational institutions, such as agricultural colleges; the education of certain classes of citizens, such as freedmen and orphans; special educational needs in regions and areas of the country; other educational issues at the national level; the conditions of labor in the United States; labor organizations; competition in the labor market; and other labor-related topics. Many activities of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau) fell under its jurisdiction.

### *Records of the Committee on Education and Labor, 40th-48th Congresses (1867-83)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 2 vols. | 1869-73 | 41st-42d |
| Docket Books | 1 vols. | 1869-71 | 41st |
| Petitions and Mem. | 19 in. | 1867-69, 1877-83 | 40th, 45th-47th |
| Comm. Papers | 2 in. | 1871-75, 1877-81 | 42d-43d, 45th-46th |
| TOTAL: | 1 ft., 9 in. and 3 vols. (3 in.) | | |

**9.7** The records of this committee are sparse and were preserved only sporadically. There is a **minute book** that contains the minutes of most of the committee meetings during the 41st and 42d Congresses. The minutes from part of the 2d session of the 41st Congress (Apr. 7 through June 29, 1870) are bound separately and consist of the proceedings of the committee during the investigation of charges against Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (Freedmen's Bureau). The **docket book** from the 41st Congress lists all the bills, resolutions, petitions and memorials, and other documents that were referred to the committee and contains several lists of national and international workmen's organizations, their officers, and newspapers published by these organizations.

**9.8** **Petitions and memorials** (19 in.) make up the bulk of the unpublished records of the committee that have been preserved. The records demonstrate the interest of the public in both major jurisdictional areas of the committee and include a wide range of suggestions for policy improvements.

**9.9** On educational matters, the petitions suggest a variety of ways that the Federal Government could support the educational needs of the nation: the establishment of a school for war orphans in East Tennessee (40A-H5.1), the use of unclaimed refunds from a cotton tax for educational purposes (45A-H8.11), aid to the education of the blind (45A-H8.2), the use of part of "colored" soldiers' bounties for the improvement of "colored" schools (46A-H8.1), the creation of a national commission on spelling reform (46A-H8.1), and Federal aid to States and territories on a basis of literacy (47A-H7.1). The largest number of education-related petitions were received during the Congress of 1877-79 from an organized petition drive that suggested the proceeds from the sale of public lands be distributed for use in educational purposes (45A-H8.6, 7 in.).

**9.10** Petitions and memorials relating to labor include demands for the establishment of a labor statistics bureau (46A-H8.1), the incorporation of the Iron Workers of America (45A-H8.7), and the prohibition of Chinese immigration (45A-H8.9, 46A-H8.1). The largest collection of labor-related petitions from this committee were from an organized petition drive between 1877 and 1881 demanding extension of the 8-hour workday law, which applied only to certain government laborers (45A-H8.8, 46A-H8.1, 11 in. total).

**9.11** **Committee papers** contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee as well as correspondence and documents relating to the subjects in its jurisdiction. The records include resolutions adopted by the National Educational Association in 1874: Favoring local control of education; supporting both the idea of a federal department of education to gather and distribute information and the use of revenues from the sale of public lands for educational purposes; and suggesting that Federal aid be provided for education in the District of Columbia (43A-F9.2). There are also an 1877 report prepared by the American Social Science Association on the need for special schools, referred to as "developing schools," to teach the trades (45A-F9.1); the *Report on Capital and Labor* published in Philadelphia in 1873 by the Committee on Industrial Interests and Labor (42A-F8.2); and letters and documents received from other organizations and individuals. The committee papers from the 42d Congress (1871-73) include a file on the subject of granting aid to the American Printing House and the University for the Blind (42A-F8.1, 1 in.); the file contains petitions, memorials, correspondence, a draft of a bill (H.R. 2558) that was prepared by what would today be called a lobbyist, and comprehensive briefs prepared by advocates and opponents of the bill.

## Committee on Education (1883-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**9.12** When the Committee on Education and Labor was separated into two committees in 1883, the jurisdiction of the new Committee on Education included all legislation and documents relating to the subject of education. This included proposed legislation providing aid from the Federal Government to common schools, aid to the education of deprived or handicapped persons, the establishment of colleges for the benefit of agricultural and mechanical education, and efforts to deal with illiteracy at the national level. The committee functioned until 1946 when it was reunited with the Committee on Labor under the Legislative Reorganization Act to form the new Committee on Education and Labor.

***Records of the Committee on Education, 48th-79th Congresses (1883-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 8 vols. | 1891-99, 1901-3<br>1937-38, 1943-46 | 52d-55th, 57th<br>75th, 78th-79th |
| Docket Books | 6 vols. | 1891-1903, 1919-21 | 52d-57th, 65th |
| Petitions and Mem. | 5 ft. | 1883-89, 1891-1903<br>1909-21, 1923-25<br>1929-31, 1939-41<br>1945-46 | 48th-50th, 52d-57th<br>61st-65th, 68th<br>71st, 76th-77th<br>79th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1885-87, 1891-1903<br>1911-15, 1917-21<br>1923-27, 1929-31<br>1937-46 | 49th, 52d-57th<br>62d-63d, 65th-66th<br>68th-69th, 71st<br>75th-79th |
| Bill Files | 4 ft. | 1909-11, 1917-25<br>1927-31, 1933-46 | 61st, 65th-68th<br>70th-71st, 73d-79th |
| TOTAL: | 12 ft. and 14 vols. (1 ft., 2 in.) | | |

**9.13** It can be seen in the table above that there are many gaps in the records of this committee. **Minute books** and **docket books** are both very incomplete. There are no unpublished records for 1923-27 and 1929-31.

**9.14** The **petitions and memorials**, provide evidence of a continuing demand for federal aid to education in general and for federal aid to a variety of special educational projects. An 1884 petition with the names of over 5,000 readers of *The Continent Magazine* asked for aid to education (48A-H8.1). Federal aid to public schools was the subject of a petition campaign that produced over 5 inches of petitions between 1887 and 1889 (50A-H7.1). An organized campaign in 1929-30 produced over 3 inches of petitions supporting the Robinson-Capper free public school bill (71A-H2.1). Petitions for general aid to education also appear through the World War II years (76A-H5.1, 77A-H5.2, 79A-H4.1).

**9.15** Other petitions appealed for more specialized educational aid. For instance, an 1883 petition from the National Educational Association demanded that the Federal Government make some provision for educational facilities in Alaska because it would be embarrassing to the United States if the educational resources that had been provided by Russia before U.S. purchase were not continued by its new owners (48A-H8.1). There are petitions from an 1885-87 organized drive for Federal support of temperance education (49A-H8.1, 3 ft.), and petitions suggesting spelling reform (52A-H6.1, 53A-H7.1), the establishment of a national university (54A-H8.1), aid to education for the blind (57A-H5.1), the establishment of a children's bureau (62A-H6.1), censorship of motion pictures (63A-H5.2, 64A-H5.1), vocational education (64A-H5.4), and education for handicapped children (77A-H5.1).

**9.16** The **committee papers**, generally contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, copies of reports and printed hearings produced by the committee, and various documents submitted to the committee.

**9.17** There are, for instance, correspondence and reports on adult illiteracy (65A-F5.1), vocational education (65A-F5.3), and a kindergarten division in the Bureau of Education (65A-F5.2) in the records of the 1917-19 period. The records from the 76th-79th Congresses (1939-46) contain correspondence files that document interest in such war-related subjects as the deferment of medical students from the draft (76A-F9.2, 77A-F9.1, 78A-F8.1) and the effect of wartime activities on colleges and universities (79A-F8.1). The committee papers also include a report on disbursements under the Agricultural College Act (54A-F8).

**9.18** The records show evidence of the eagerness of American intellectuals and inventors to persuade Congress to appropriate funds for the testing and dissemination of new educational methods and tools. A statement from the Citizens Committee of the District of Columbia for Scientific Temperance Education explained the origin of the concept of scientific temperance education and supported a bill before the House to provide for such instruction (49A-F9.2). A file of material supporting passage of H.R. 303, a bill "To test and try the science of spelling," contains a long letter to the committee written by Charles A. Story, the inventor of the science of spelling, supportive letters from dozens of citizens from Illinois, copies of H.R. 303, and copies of several books published by Story, including *Story's Blending and Spelling Book and Complete Word-Builder for All Nations* and *The Last Three Pages of the Music of the Spelling Book* (49A-F9.1, 2 in.). The committee papers from 1892 contain a letter and flyer from L. S. Benson, the inventor of a geometric method for the trisection of an angle, which claim to provide a proof of his geometry and support his protests against the appropriation of Federal funds for the teaching of geometry at the military academies at West Point and Annapolis because this constitutes the teaching of false knowledge (52A-F8.2).

**9.19** The bill files also contain records from and about the work of scientists and inventors. The bill file on H.R. 6490, a bill to require the Commissioner of Education to devise a plan to eliminate illiteracy in the United States, includes a letter from the inventor of the groove impression method of teaching beginners the fundamentals of writing, offering her assistance to the committee (65A-D4). The files for 1913-14 contain a transcript of a hearing on H. Res. 408, a resolution to establish the priority of the discovery of the North Pole (63A-F6).

**9.20** The **bill files** from this committee consist almost entirely of printed copies of bills and the related printed hearings and reports. The records in the 65th and 75th through 79th Congresses do, however, contain unpublished documentation and provide insight into public opinion related to the legislation that was referred to the committee. For example, the records from 1917 through 1919 (65A-D4, 1 ft.) contain substantial files on H.R. 244, a bill to create a bureau for the deaf and dumb; H.R. 6445, a bill to establish a national conservatory of music and art; S. 3805 and H.R. 9686, bills to establish engineering experiment stations to measure various aspects of military and naval preparedness; H.R. 6490, a bill to require that methods and plans for the elimination of illiteracy be developed; H.R. 11367, a bill to provide for vocational rehabilitation for veterans; H.R. 15400, a bill to create a department of education.

**9.21** The bill files from the 76th through 79th Congresses (1939-46) contain substantial documentation on such subjects as vocational education for disabled veterans (78A-D7, 79A-D10), child care for the children of mothers employed in the war industries of the United States (78A-D7), aviator education (76A-D10, 78A-D7), and Federal aid to physical health education for national defense purposes (76A-D10). The bills that elicited the largest amount of mail from citizens were the so-called Hinshaw bills from the 77th Congress (1941-42)—bills that proposed to eliminate the teaching of foreign languages in schools during wartime. The files on two of the Hinshaw bills, H.R. 6820 and H.R. 7422, contain postcards from hundreds of citizens protesting the unconstitutionality and inappropriateness of the proposed legislation (77A-D9).

## Committee on Labor (1883-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**9.22** The committee was created in 1883, when its jurisdiction was removed from the old Education and Labor Committee and two separate committees were created. Despite the establishment of a committee devoted entirely to labor issues, little significant labor legislation was passed before the depression of the 1930's.

**9.23** The committee's jurisdiction included the wages and hours of labor; the arbitration of labor difficulties; the use of convict labor, alien labor, contract labor, and military labor in competition with "honest labor"; and the conditions of laborers employed in Government service. The committee considered methods of directing the work of Federal employees, including the use of the Taylor System of shop management and problems relating to child and woman labor; it also investigated such labor-related subjects as conditions in city slums and conditions of blacks in America and of saleswomen in the District of Columbia.

### *Records of the Committee on Labor, 48th-79th Congresses (1883-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 17 vols. | 1883-1913, 1915-17<br>1945-46 | 48th-62d, 64th<br>79th |
| Docket Books | 17 vols. | 1883-97, 1899-1917 | 48th-54th, 56th-64th |
| Petitions and Mem. | 12 ft. | 1883-89, 1891-1905<br>1907-11, 1913-15<br>1919-25, 1927-29<br>1931-46 | 48th-50th, 52d-58th<br>60th-61st, 63d<br>66th-68th, 70th<br>72d-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1883-87, 1891-1911<br>1913-19, 1921-23<br>1925-27, 1929-33<br>1935-46 | 48th-49th, 52d-61st<br>63d-65th, 67th<br>69th, 71st-72d<br>74th-79th |
| Bill Files | 8 ft. | 1903-13, 1917-46 | 58th-62d, 65th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 23 ft. and 34 vols. (2 ft., 10 in.) | | |

**9.24** The activities of the committee during its early years (1883-1917) are documented in **minute books** and **docket books**, but these types of records are missing almost entirely after 1917.

**9.25** **Petitions and memorials** referred to the committee reflect the variety of subjects included in its jurisdiction. There are several categories of petitions intended to protect American laborers from what they saw as unfair competition: demands for legislation limiting immigration in order to protect American labor, especially Chinese exclusion (52A-H12.1, 57A-H15.1); protection of free labor from competition from convict labor and prison-made goods (53A-H17.1, 54A-H17.3, 55A-H13.4, 63A-H16.3, 72A-H9.2); the prohibition of the importation of alien contract labor (48A-H13.2, 54A-H17.1); and protection of private enterprise from unfair competition from government competition (72A-H9.5, 75A-H9.2).

**9.26** Another topic that appeared repeatedly arose from the 8-hour work law passed in 1868 affecting government laborers. Workers sought its extension to private industry (48A-F13.1, 49A-H12.4, 52A-H12.3, 55A-H13.5, 58A-H13.1, 61A-H17.2, 63A-H16.4, 66A-H12.1, 75A-H9.5). The largest group of petitions in this committee's records involve the application of the 8-hour work law to the textile industry (75A-H9.5, 2 ft.).

**9.27** Throughout the period there are petitions and memorials indicating social and industrial problems that adversely affected American life and demanding that these problems be investigated and solutions proposed. There are petitions demanding the investigation of living conditions in U.S. city slums (52A-H12.6, 6 in.); the "investigation of acts of unlawful violence alleged to have been inflicted on account of crime" (53A-H17.2, 4 in.); the appointment of commissions to investigate the problems of labor and capital (54A-H17.2, 55A-H13.2) and to inquire into the condition of blacks in the United States (57A-H15.3); and an investigation of the causes of the strikes in the copper mines in Colorado and Michigan (63A-H16.10). Petitions were submitted from time to time about child labor (60A-H20.1, 63A-H16.2, 75A-H9.1, 79A-H10.5), the establishment of a children's bureau (61A-H17.1), and the working conditions of women (49A-H12.1, 79A-H10.5).

**9.28** Also present are petitions demanding legislation to deal with labor/management disputes. The proposed solutions change over time; for instance, there are petitions denouncing the employment of private police in labor disputes (52A-H12.4), and petitions favoring industrial arbitration and an industrial commission to investigate labor problems (54A-H17.2), arbitration of railroad strikes (55A-H13.3), anti-injunction legislation (58A-H13.1), open shops (66A-H12.4), and the right to strike (66A-H12.5, 77A-H10.1). Other petitions and memorials documented sentiment on specific pieces of legislation, such as, the Wagner labor relations bill (74A-H9.4), the Fair Labor Standards Act (76A-H14), the Murray-Patman full-employment bill (79A-H10), and old-age and unemployment insurance (74A-H9).

**9.29** The **committee papers** include copies of bills and resolutions that were referred to the committee, correspondence on various subjects within its jurisdiction, and printed reports and hearings generated by the committee.

**9.30** The committee papers of the 53d Congress (1893-95) reflect the depression that had just overtaken the country. There are transcripts from an 1894 hearing that include the testimony of James S. Coxey on the financial and labor conditions in the country and, particularly, on a proposal to appoint a committee to devise a means to achieve the reemployment of jobless men (53A-F23.3), and correspondence and hearings transcripts on several bills introduced to create a national board to arbitrate employer/employee differences (53A-F23.4). Correspondence and reports from various State governments describe the extent to which they employ convict labor—an unfair source of competition for unemployed laboring men (53A-F23.4). Among the miscellaneous letters received during that Congress is one from the Superintendent of Charities for the District of Columbia describing a visit to his office on the morning of July 26, 1894, by two men who described themselves as members of "Kelly's Industrial Army" and asked for financial assistance to make a journey west in search of employment. The superintendent noted that under the laws of the District of Columbia he could do nothing to help them, but he had promised to forward their inquiry to the appropriate authority—the House Labor Committee (53A-F23.5).

**9.31** A large number of transcripts of testimony given at hearings, some of which are unpublished, are found in both the committee papers and the bill file series. They include an 1892 hearing on the 8-hour law and convict labor in the same cover (52A-F23.2). Transcripts and related records from two subcommittee hearings on child and woman labor (59A-F22.3) include a copy of a March 1906 note from Theodore Roosevelt that expresses the President's interest in the pending bill to investigate the conditions of child and woman labor in the United States.

**9.32** Other records include correspondence regarding the 8-hour law (56A-F20) and reports and messages from the President, such as a Presidential message entitled "Help For Those Who Toil" (75A-F23).

**9.33** The **bill files** from the 58th through 71st Congresses (1903-31) are uneven and generally incomplete. While the bill files for several of the Congresses consist of very thin files on only a few bills or of copies of printed hearings and reports, the files of other Congresses contain valuable correspondence and hearing files. The files from the 58th Congress (1903-5), for instance, contain records from five hearings, including a hearing transcript on convict labor that was probably not printed (58A-D15). The bill files from the 62d Congress (1911-13) contain records of 11 pieces of legislation, including H. Res. 90, a resolution to investigate the Taylor System of shop management; H.R. 4694, a bill to establish a children's bureau in the Department of Commerce and Labor; H.R. 21094, a bill to create a commission on industrial relations; and H.R. 9061, a bill to limit the hours of laborers and mechanics on public works for the United States or the District of Columbia.

**9.34** After the 72d Congress (1931-33), more records are present, but in most cases a large part of the files is made up of copies of printed hearings and reports. The bill files from the 75th Congress (1937-38) provide examples of the subjects found in bill files for other Congresses: S. 2475, a fair labor standards bill (5 in.); H.R. 6180, a bill proposing a civilian conservation corps; and H.R. 238, a bill to rehabilitate and stabilize labor conditions in the textile industry, prevent unemployment, provide minimum wages and maximum hours, and promote the general welfare. The public response to H.R. 238 is documented in over 2 feet of petitions received (75A-H9.4) and testimony contained in a nine-part printed hearing (75A-D21). The bill file on H.R. 4908, a bill to provide for the mediation of labor disputes, contains the original veto message from President Harry S. Truman (75A-D21).

### *Related Records*

**9.35** There are related records from the **Select Committee to Investigate the National Labor Relations Board** (76A-F45.1, 84 ft.). The NLRB was created in 1935, and by 1939 it was the center of a nationwide storm of criticism largely due to "the overzealousness of the Board in its conduct and its interpretation of the law."[5] Hearings on proposed amendments to the National Labor Relations Act were held before the Senate Education and Labor Committee and the House Labor Committee in 1939, and, as a result of findings in these hearings, the select committee was formed in July of that year (see chapter 22).

## Committee on Education and Labor (1947-68)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**9.36** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Committees on Education and on Labor were combined to form this committee. Its jurisdiction included:

> (a) Measures relating to education and labor generally, (b) Child labor, (c) Columbia Institute for the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind; Howard University; Freedmen's Hospital; and Saint Elizabeths Hospital, (d) Convict labor and the entry of goods made by convicts into interstate commerce, (e) Labor standards, (f) Labor statistics, (g) Mediation and arbitration of labor disputes, (h) Regulation or prevention of importation of foreign laborers under contract, (i) School-lunch program, (j) United States Employees' Compensation Commission, (k) Vocational rehabilitation, (l) Wages and hours of labor, and (m) Welfare of miners.[6]

### *Records of the Committee on Education and Labor, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 2 ft. | 1947-48, 1953-68 | 80th, 83d-90th |
| Petitions and Mem. | 1 ft. | 1947-52, 1955-58<br>1963-68 | 80th-82d, 84th-85th<br>88th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 70 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 47 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 120 ft. | | |

**9.37** The unpublished records of the committee provide less insight into its workings than is desirable. The records shown on the table above consist mainly of copies of printed documents.

**9.38** Detailed **minutes** of committee meetings were kept in looseleaf binders and are filed with the committee papers for each Congress. The minutes vary in detail and completeness. The minutes from 1961-62 (87A-F4.3, 4 in.) include those of subcommittee meetings as well as full committee meetings. The minutes for 1967-68 (90A-F4, 6 in.) include vote tallys. The minutes from 1955-60 were on loan to the committee and not examined for description in this guide.

**9.39** **Petitions and memorials** include appeals for federal aid to education (80A-H3.1, 81A-H3.2, 82A-H4.1, 85A-H4.1), fair employment practices (80A-H3.2, 81A-H3.1), the minimum wage law (84A-H4, 89A-H4), repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act (81A-H3.3), concern for safety in workplaces (82A-H4.1), and other subjects.

**9.40** Over half of the **committee papers** consist of printer's copies and page proofs of published hearings that were preserved with the records of the 80th Congress. For most Congresses the committee papers contain copies of all committee published hearings, prints, legislative calendars, and selected reports. Although the committee published most of the hearings it held, there are unprinted transcripts of hearings from 1959-68 on subjects such as labor/management relations reform (86A-F5.4), juvenile delinquency (88A-F4), and Vocational Rehabilitation Act amendments (89A-F4).

**9.41** The committee papers generally contain part or all of the executive communications that were referred to the committee. These usually consist of annual reports and special reports from the Commissioner of Education; the National Labor Relations Board; the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; St. Elizabeths Hospital; and other organizations under the committee's jurisdiction. Another type of communication from executive departments are the drafts of proposed legislation prepared by these and other executive departments. Some messages of the President that were referred to the committee are also retained in the files of the committee; for example, Truman's 1950 message regarding the federal takeover of the coal mines (81A-F5.4) and Dwight D. Eisenhower's 1954 message on labor relations legislation (83A-F5.6).

**9.42** The volume of the **bill files** (47 ft.) is deceptive because it consists primarily of printed copies of the bills and accompanying reports and only occasionally the written comments of the federal agencies affected by the legislation. The sheer volume of the bill files, however, reflects the increase in legislation referred to the committee. The 80th-83d Congresses averaged 290 bills referred and 12 bills reported per Congress, while the 87th-90th Congresses averaged over 820 bills referred and 38 bills reported per Congress.

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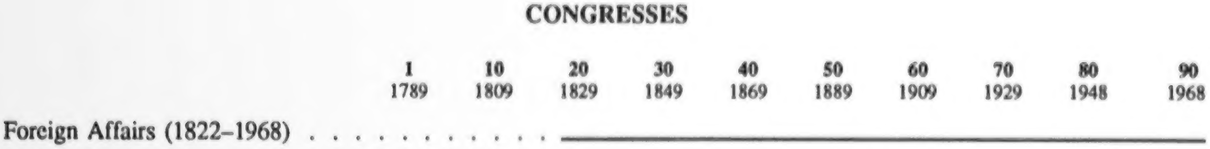
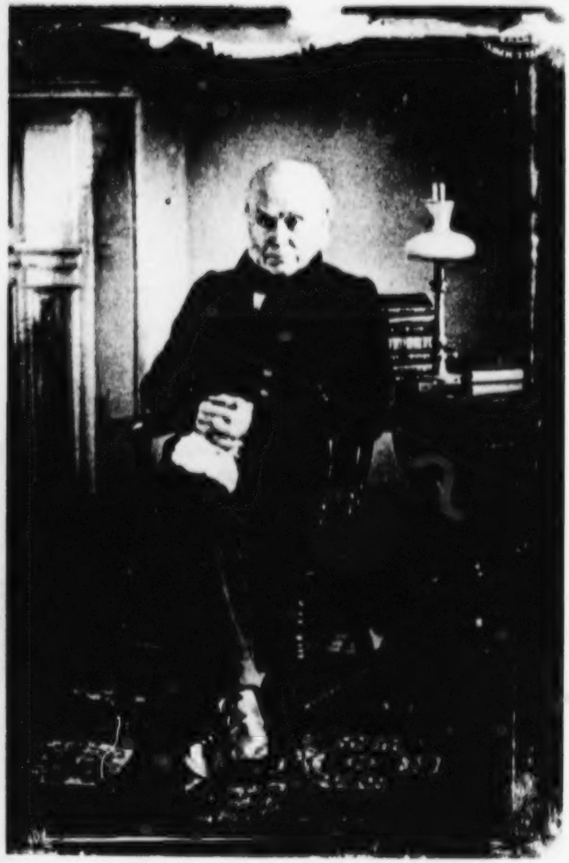
[5] U.S. Congress, House, *Intermediate Report of the Select Committee to Investigate the National Labor Relations Board*, H. Rept. 1902, 76th Cong., 3d sess., 1940, p. 2.

[6] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 335.

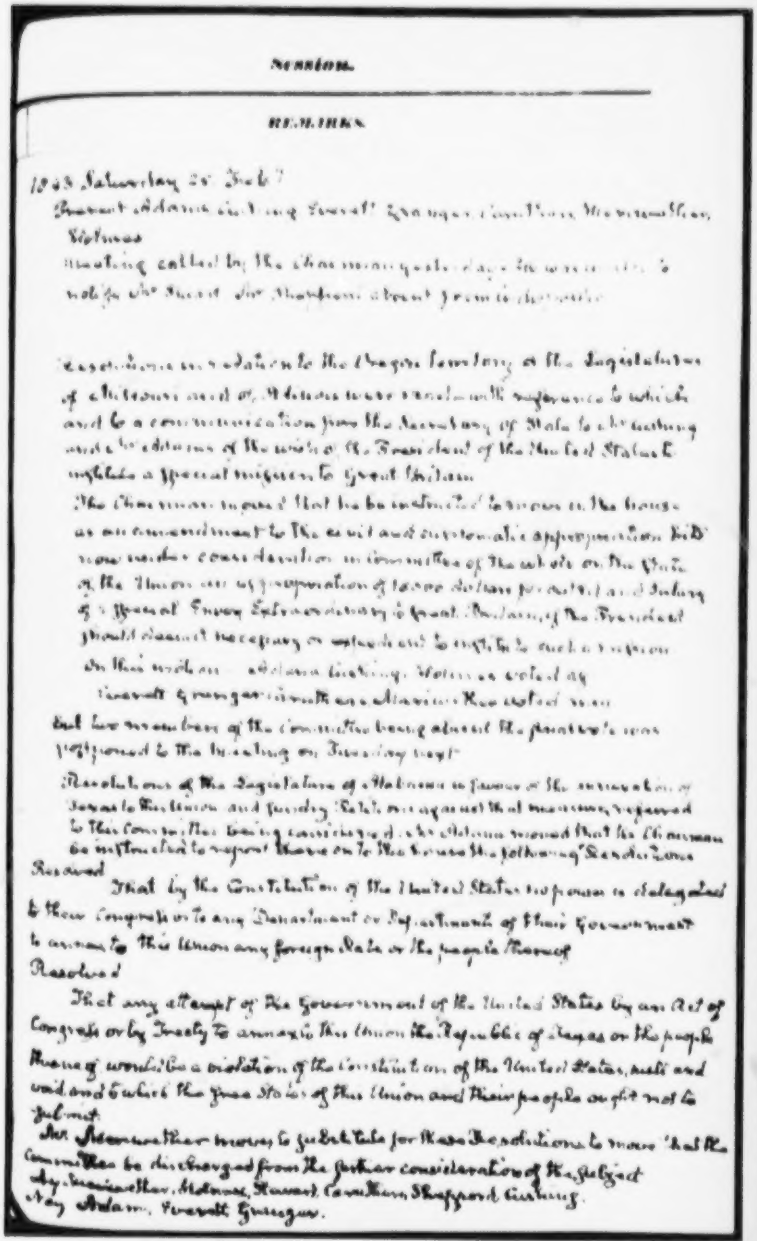
# Chapter 10

# RECORDS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE





*John Quincy Adams who served as a United States Senator (1803-8); Minister to Russia (1809-14) and England (1815-17); Secretary of State (1817-25); and President of the United States (1825-29), served from 1831 until his death in 1848 as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. Adams is shown above in an 1843 daguerreotype as he looked when he served as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and recorded the minutes of committee minutes (shown at right) in his own hand. (27A-D8.4)*



SESSION.

REMARKS.

1843 Saturday 25 Feb^y
Present Adams Cushing Everett Granger Carruthers Meriwether, Holmes
Meeting called by the Chairman yesterday [illegible]
notify Mr Howard Mr Sheppard absent from [illegible]

Resolutions in relation to the Oregon Territory of the Legislature of Missouri and of Illinois were read - with reference to which and to a communication from the Secretary of State to Mr Cushing and Mr Adams of the wish of the President of the United States to institute a special mission to Great Britain
The Chairman moved that he be instructed to move in the House as an amendment to the civil and diplomatic appropriation bill now under consideration in Committee of the whole on the State of the Union an appropriation of [illegible] dollars for outfit and salary of a Special Envoy Extraordinary to Great Britain if the President should deem it necessary or expedient to institute such a mission
On this motion - Adams Cushing, Holmes voted ay
Everett Granger Carruthers Meriwether voted no
but two members of the committee being absent the final vote was postponed to the meeting on Tuesday next
Resolutions of the Legislature of Alabama in favour of the annexation of Texas to this Union and sundry Petitions against that measure, referred to this Committee being considered - Mr Adams moved that the Chairman be instructed to report thereon to the House the following Resolutions
Resolved
That by the Constitution of the United States no power is delegated to their Congress or to any Department or Departments of their Government to annex to this Union any foreign State or the people thereof
Resolved
That any attempt of the Government of the United States by an Act of Congress or by Treaty to annex to this Union the Republic of Texas or the people thereof would be a violation of the Constitution of the United States, null and void and to which the free States of this Union and their people ought not to submit.
Mr Meriwether moves to substitute for these Resolutions to move that the Committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject
Ay. Meriwether, Holmes, Howard, Carruthers, Sheppard, Cushing.
Nay Adams, Everett, Granger.

# CHAPTER 10

## RECORDS OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**10.1** The Committee on Foreign Affairs gained status as a standing committee of the House of Representatives in 1822, but its antecedents date as far back as 1775 when the Continental Congress established a committee to correspond with friends abroad. In 1777 that committee changed its name from Committee of Secret Correspondence to Committee for Foreign Affairs. Although in 1781 the Continental Congress established a Department of Foreign Affairs, the legislature retained real power over foreign relations until the inauguration of the new Federal Government. Under the Constitution the preponderance of control over foreign affairs shifted to the executive branch. Within the legislative branch the Senate's responsibilities both for treaty ratification and for confirmation of presidentially nominated diplomatic agents gave it a measure of pre-eminence in matters of foreign policy.

**10.2** As early as 1815 Representative Richard H. Wilde proposed that the House establish a standing committee on foreign affairs. The idea was rejected at that time, but in 1822 the House established the Committee on Foreign Affairs, with jurisdiction over "matters which concern the relations of the United States with foreign nations." [1]

**10.3** The committee's basic jurisdiction remained unchanged until 1885 when the committee gained power to report germane appropriations measures, a power it lost to the Appropriations Committee in 1920. Today the Appropriations Committee is but one of no less than 18 committees with whom the Foreign Affairs Committee shares jurisdiction regarding international concerns. Nonetheless, the Foreign Affairs Committee maintains primacy in the House in foreign affairs, largely through its power to authorize foreign economic and military assistance.

**10.4** For the 90th Congress the committee's jurisdiction covered:

> (a) Relations of the United States with foreign nations generally. (b) Acquisition of land and buildings for embassies and legations in foreign countries. (c) Establishment of boundary lines between the United States and foreign nations. (d) Foreign loans. (e) International conferences and congresses. (f) Intervention abroad and declarations of war. (g) Measures to foster commercial intercourse with foreign nations and to safeguard American business interests abroad. (i) Neutrality. (j) Protection of American citizens abroad and expatriation. (k) The American National Red Cross. (l) United Nations Organization and international financial and monetary organizations.[2]

In the past the committee's jurisdiction included declarations of peace (e.g., termination of the state of war with Germany following World War I) and the creation of United States courts in foreign countries. The committee shared jurisdiction with both the Committee on Education and Labor and the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization for matters relating to restrictions against Chinese immigration. The committee exercised preliminary jurisdiction for measures relating to a Central American interoceanic canal.

**10.5** In 1976 the Foreign Affairs Committee, then known as the Committee on International Relations, published an eight-volume Historical Series of transcripts of selected executive session hearings, 1943-50 [Y4.In8/16:62/v. 1-81]. An additional ten volumes for the period 1951-56 were published in 1980; three more, 1957-60, appeared in 1987 [Y4.F76/1:H62/v. 9-21].

**10.6** The two most comprehensive published secondary works relating to the Committee are Albert C. F. Westphal's *The House Committee on Foreign Affairs* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1942) and Holbert N. Carroll's *The House of Representatives and Foreign Policy* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh

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[1] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 17th Cong., 1st sess., Mar 13. 13, 1822, p. 351.

[2] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, pp. 336-337.

Press, 1958; revised edition, Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1966).

**10.7** The records of the committee are described below in three chronological periods. The first begins with the earliest records in the National Archives for the select committees that preceded the standing committee (11th Congress, 1810) and continues through those for the 54th Congress (1897). The second essentially covers the years from the Spanish-American War through the end of World War II, the 55th through the 79th Congresses (1897-1946). The third covers the period from the 80th Congress through the 90th Congresses (1947-1968).

***Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and predecessor select committees, 11th-54th Congresses (1810-1897)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 16 vols. | 1841-47, 1861-97 | 27th-29th, 37th-54th |
| Docket Books | 23 vols. | 1825-47, 1851-97 | 19th-29th, 32d-54th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 20 ft. | 1809-13, 1815-21, 1823-97 | 11th-12th, 14th-16th, 18th-54th |
| Comm. Papers | 14 ft. | 1811-15, 1818-51, 1853-97 | 12th-13th, 15th-31st, 33rd-54th |
| TOTAL: | 34 ft. and 39 vols. (3 ft.) | | |

*See also tables for 55th-90th Congresses after paras. 10.41 and 10.57.

**10.8** The earliest **minutes** are contained in three combination minute/docket volumes for the 27th, 28th and 29th Congresses (1841-47). The minutes portion of the volume for the 27th Congress includes a partial account of Thomas W. Gilmer's unsuccessful attempt to unseat John Quincy Adams as committee chair. Some of the entries in this volume are in Adams' handwriting. For the combination minute/docket books the docket entries will often appear on a left-hand page, while minutes, which bear no direct relationship to the docket entries, are found on the corresponding right-hand page. It is not unusual to find minute entries giving little more than the date of the meeting, the names of those present, and a one-sentence account of what transpired. Other entries provide additional information as to text of resolutions, substitute measures, and yea-nay committee divisions.

**10.9** Separate volumes of minutes begin with the 37th Congress, 2d session (1861). The most comprehensive set of minutes are those for the 51st Congress, as recorded by the committee clerk, James G. Blaine Jr. For this volume the clerk wrote in red in the left margin of each page the subject matter under discussion. On the final page of the volume there is an entry stating that on February 25, 1891, papers of the Committee on Foreign Affairs for the 36th and the 38th through the 50th Congress were delivered to the file room. The clerk added the comment: "The papers were in some cases not the complete papers of the Session."

**10.10** The earliest committee **docket** is in a bound volume containing entries from the 19th through the 26th Congresses (1825-41). Through the 21st Congress entries are arranged alphabetically for the petition, resolution, or bill in question. For the 22nd through the 26th Congresses entries are recorded in chronological order. Dockets for subsequent Congresses are arranged chronologically by date of receipt. Typically a docket entry will give the date of introduction, the name of the Congressman introducing the measure, the measure's subject matter, and "remarks," which may describe the disposition of the document. As with the minutes, the docket entries for the 51st Congress are the most detailed.

**10.11** An unusual type of docket book is an Abstract of References for the 43rd-45th Congresses (1873-1879). This volume is arranged by congressional session and thereunder by name of committee member. Individual entries for each member are arranged in chronological order. Information given includes docket number, nature of reference, date of report, nature of report, and action of the committee.

**10.12** For the 11th-23rd Congresses (1810-1835) the National Archives holds relatively few **petitions and memorials**, barely 10 inches total. Petitions and memorials, in part, determined the committee's agenda. These files vary in format. Some include a single letter from an individual describing a grievance and asking redress. Others contain petitions with thousands of signatures. A file may also contain support documentation such as letters from other persons favoring a position, newspaper clippings, copies of congressional bills or reports, or other printed matter, but such files occur infrequently. Typically a petition will have an endorsement on its reverse side briefly listing the author, subject, Congressman introducing it, and the date it was referred to the committee. Sometimes a particular petition file will have a corresponding file in committee papers for a subsequent Congress.

**10.13** Claims petitions can be found for most Congresses. Most common were claims submitted by employees of the consular or diplomatic services who sought additional pay for services rendered or who asked for reimbursement for personal funds expended. A second group of claimants was American merchants who had suffered the loss of sailing vessels and/or cargoes at the hands of foreign governments or pirates in foreign lands. It was not unusual for claims from a particular individual or heirs to be resubmitted from one Congress to another. Occasionally claims from foreigners were handled by the committee, including one from heirs of the ex-Bashaw of Tripoli which discussed assistance given Americans during the Barbary wars (37A-G4.4).

**10.14** Petitions for changes in the consular or diplomatic services—often grouped within the claims category—frequently came from State Department employees, the very men who would benefit most from changes that would increase the salary of a particular consular post or upgrade the level of consular or diplomatic representation in a foreign city. From some of these petitions, such as that of a former consul in Oldenburg (35A-G6.1), much can be learned about the anticipations of new appointees, the realities they faced, and the importance of their posts. On occasion, religious or ethnic concerns manifest themselves, as was the case of Jewish petitioners in 1874 who wanted the consulship at Bucharest, one of whose main functions was to challenge persecutions against the local Jewish population, to be made a salaried position (43A-H6.2). During the early 1890's, petitions began appearing from groups such as the St. Paul, MN, Chamber of Commerce (53A-H11.5) and the National Association of Manufacturers (54A-H11.6) urging the appointment of appropriately trained men to the consular service.

**10.15** Merchants, at least in the pre-Civil War years, wrote a significant share of the petitions and memorials referred to the committee. Some of these petitions discussed the state of affairs in various areas of the world. Others recorded complaints, as did one denouncing the Danish government's quarantine preventing American vessels from the West Indies from trading at Elsinore and other Baltic ports (24A-G6.3). One petition identified ports in British North America that were "free ports" and explained what that meant (25A-G6.8).

**10.16** In the post-Civil War years other economic groups pressed their cases. The Board of Trade of Philadelphia endorsed American participation in the 1867 Paris Exposition (39A-H10.1). Cyrus W. Field called for the incorporation of the Pacific Submarine Telegraph Company (41A-H4.2). Agricultural interests objected to the closure of European markets to leaf tobacco (46A-H9.1) and to pork products (48A-H9.4).

**10.17** Resolutions from State legislatures constitute an insignificant proportion of the total number of petitions and memorials, but they do illustrate the subjects on which the committee was asked to act. No State sent more than did Maine, whose concerns included international trade (25A-G6.8), timber duties (28A-G7.10), boundary matters (46A-H9.2), and treaty-sanctioned fishing rights (46A-H9.2). Immediately prior to the War of 1812 the legislatures of Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, and the Mississippi Territory sent resolutions supporting measures to defend the honor of the United States (12A-F5.1). Alabama requested the annexation of Texas (27A-G7.3). Missouri asked for treaty negotiations which would lead to the recovery of slaves who had found refuge in Canada (29A-G5.4). Indiana made clear its opposition to the proposed annexation of Santo Domingo (41A-H4.2). Oregon asked for the incorporation of the Maritime Canal Company of Nicaragua (47A-H9.3). The Washington Territory prayed for an end to Chinese immigration (49A-H9.1). Colorado called for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands (52A-H7.1).

**10.18** During the 19th century the three subjects that prompted the greatest number of petitions to the committee were those involving the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War (25A-G6.1, 26A-G6.3, 27A-G7.3, 28A-G7.5, 29A-G5.3, 30A-G6.2), restrictions on Chinese immigration (41A-H4.2, 42A-H5.1, 44A-H5.3, 48A-H9.3, 49A-H9.1, 50A-H10.2, 51A-H8.1, 52A-H7.4, 53A-H11.3), and Cuban independence (41A-H4.1, 42A-H5.3, 43A-H6.2, 54A-H11.2). On controversial issues such as these, the petitions, both pro and con, are interfiled. The single petition with the greatest number of signers was from New Yorkers favoring the selection of their city for the 1892 World's Fair (51A-H8.5).

**10.19** While the majority of petitions on such subjects as suppression of the international slave trade (25A-G6.7), American recognition of Haiti (25A-G6.7) and of Liberia (31A-G6.3) do not indicate the race of the petitioners, other petitions clearly were submitted by blacks. These include one from "free people of colour" in New York in 1838 who sought protection of their rights in traveling between the South Carolina/Georgia area and Cuba (25A-G6.8). Another, from the 1880's, was from seven blacks in Arkansas who asked for assistance to emigrate to Liberia (49A-H9.3). Emigration assistance also was requested by whites who sought help in moving to Oregon (22A-G7.1). Beginning in the early 1880's the committee received petitions asking that immigrants who were likely to become public charges be returned to Europe (46A-H9.2).

**10.20** Petitioners were concerned with the rights of Americans abroad, including the enjoyment of public worship (32A-G7.7). Some petitions called for the release of particular Americans held as prisoners in foreign lands (27A-G7.2). The protection of naturalized American citizens in areas ruled by Great Britain inspired a petition drive which collected several thousand signatures (40A-H6.1). In later years petitions shifted to calls for a "Permanent Treaty of Arbitration" with Great Britain. One of these was signed by Frances E. Willard and other members of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (53A-H11.2).

**10.21** Irish-Americans petitioned for amnesty for political prisoners confined in English prisons (54A-H11.6). Jewish-Americans from Philadelphia, PA, protested against anti-Semitic measures in Russia (47A-H9.5). Citizens from Hartford, CT, urged that pressure be brought on Turkey to prevent the repetition of crimes against Armenians (53A-H11.5).

**10.22** As early as 1838, ministers from Massachusetts declared that the time had come for the establishment of a convention or Congress of Nations to settle principles of international law and to organize a High Court of Nations for the adjudication of international disputes (25A-G6.5), a subject on which the committee received additional petitions in succeeding Congresses.

**10.23** **Committee papers** include some petitions and memorials, as well as presidential messages, transmittal letters from the President and the Secretary of State, resolutions, manuscripts of documents later printed as committee reports, supplemental correspondence, printer's copies of bills, and copies of printed bills, documents and reports (sometimes with annotations). Committee reports and documents are available as a part of the *Congressional Serial Set.* These are listed in T. H. McKee's 15-page index of reports of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 1822-1887, which is bound with indexes for other House committees in the 1887 volume *Compilation of Indexes to House Reports* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1887).

**10.24** The contents of the committee papers files are not standardized. Often an endorsement on a document will include the docket number recorded in the docket volume. Until the 39th Congress (1865-1867) committee papers rarely averaged more than 2 or 3 inches per Congress. Administrative records (40A-F9.1, 42A-F10.1, 43A-F11.4, 48A-F13.1, 52A-F18.1 and 54A-F16.1) sometimes include listings of committee members, docket entry sheets, letters relating to committee business, manuscript copies of resolutions, and printed bills and resolutions.

**10.25** As with the petitions and memorials category, claims comprise a significant share of committee papers. The papers for the 36th Congress (1859-1861) include 15 claims (36A-D10.1). Of these, 11 involved service by members of the diplomatic or consular services, 2 involved ship owners who had suffered losses in foreign lands, and 2 were from citizens for losses suffered in Mexico and in Nicaragua.

**10.26** The typical claim submitted by consular and diplomatic personnel sought reimbursement for the temporary performance of duties as a higher graded official, a practice explained by the Secretary of State Louis McLane in 1834 (23A-D7.3). Sometimes particular claims would be considered in subsequent Congresses, as was the salary claim by Alexander Scott for his service in 1812-1813 as U.S. diplomatic agent to Venezuela (20A-D9.1, 21A-D10.1, 23A-D7.1, 24A-D8.1, 25A-D10.1, and 26A-D9.1).

**10.27** French spoliation claims resulted from losses sustained by American merchants from French armed vessels during the 1790's and very early 1800's (14A-F5.1, 16A-D10.1, 17A-C11.1, 18A-C6.2, 19A-D8.1, 20A-D9.1, 23A-D7.1, 25A-D10.2, 28A-D12.1, 36A-D10.1, etc.) As late as 1885 the subject remained one of discussion between the Secretary of State and the committee chairman (48A-F13.8).

**10.28** Nineteenth century claims against Spain concerned various matters relating to Cuba (17A-C11.2, 18A-F6.2, 19A-D8.1, 33A-D6.3,). Claims against Great Britain included not only those covered by the Treaty of Ghent (18A-C6.2), but also those stemming from damages American ships suffered during the Civil War from British-built Confederate warships, including the Alabama (40A-F9.9, 41A-F10.1). Americans also submitted claims against other foreign governments including Portugal (20A-D9.1), Russia (20A-D9.2), Haiti (21A-D10.1), Denmark (24A-D88.1), Venezuela (44A-F16.12), New Zealand (46A-F15.5), Brazil (48A-F13.4) and Argentina (48A-F13.5).

**10.29** The committee was also involved with claims by foreigners against the United States. These included compensation to the owners of the Amistad, a Spanish slave ship (28A-D12.2), the recovery for damages to the owners of a Norwegian ship for discriminatory treatment during the Union's Civil War blockade of Charleston harbor (37A-E6.7) and objections from citizens of Switzerland against American import duties on watches (39A-F9.12)

**10.30** The committee exercised jurisdiction over questions concerning gifts and decorations given to officeholders by foreign rulers. Background information on past practices can be found in Secretary of State Louis McLane's circular of 1834 (23A-D7.3). Particular files include those for awards from Russia (37A-E6.8), France (39A-F9.10), Portugal (41A-F10.14), Turkey (44A-F16.11), and Argentina, Canada, Germany, and Russia (54A-F6.5). Documents regarding horses presented by the rulers of Turkey and Morocco also are among the committee papers (21A-D10.2, 23A-D7.2, 23A-D7.3).

**10.31** Prior to the 1850's the committee devoted relatively little attention to a comprehensive overview of the workings of the diplomatic and consular services. The committee papers do include some multi-year reviews of State Department expenditures, such as a compilation of expenses relating to foreign intercourse, 1821-1833 (23A-D7.3). In the manuscript copy of a report on the diplomatic and consular systems there is a review of operations for the years 1841-1853 (33A-D6.4).

**10.32** Although comprehensive legislation on the foreign services was enacted in the mid-1850's, the committee continued to consider modifications and changes for posts abroad. For example, an examination of committee papers for the 42nd Congress (1871-1873) reveals the following consular-related topics (42A-F10.4): agents for consular inspections; the proposed abolition of the consulate at Yedo, Japan; the proposed upgrading of the consulate at Manchester, England; the possibility of changing the consulate at Bombay, India from a fees-compensated position to a salaried position; an account of the way the consul at Belfast, Ireland got his job; a printer's copy of a Senate bill from the 41th Congress listing all U.S. consular positions around the world with corresponding salary levels; and a document from the U.S. Consulate General in Shanghai on the regulation of the consular system in China.

**10.33** Information on consular matters in a particular country is scattered throughout the committee papers. For example, references to China can be found in files on activities in 1854 on behalf of shipwrecked Americans (33A-D6.5), consular salaries (39A-F9.4), consular courts (34A-D7.2, 42A-F10.4, 43A-F11.6), charges made in 1876 against the former Consul General at Shanghai (44A-F16.2), the need for additional personnel in 1880 (46A-F15.5), and the importance of the consulate at Shanghai, 1886 (49A-F15.3).

**10.34** Committee papers contain information on the responsibility the House shared with the Senate for approving funds for the implementation of treaties. Thus there are letters in the committee papers concerning appropriations to pay Russia for the purchase of Alaska in 1867 (40A-F9.15). Also, the Secretary of State occasionally notified the committee of the necessity of appropriations to meet the expenses of such organizations as the Tribunal of Arbitration established under the 1871 Treaty of Washington (42A-F10.6) or the need for legislation for the payment of claims, such as those under the convention of 1868 between the United States and Mexico (45A-F15.5).

**10.35** Committee papers shed light on the workings of Congress concerning matters relating to Texas independence, relations with Mexico, and the Mexican War, 1836-48 (24A-D8.2, 25A-D10.3, 26A-D9.2, 27A-D8.3, 28A-D12.2, 29A-D7.3). Nicholas P. Trist's unpublished 1848 letters on his peace negotiations with Mexico in 1848 are not among the records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but they can be found elsewhere in the House records (30A-K1). Other matters affecting Mexico included loans and internal political developments (39A-F9.12), the boundary line (49A-F15.11, 50A-F15.5), commercial relations (41A-F10.4), Indian attacks across the border into Texas (42A-F10.7), and the failure of a colonization scheme involving black Americans (54A-F16.7).

**10.36** Committee papers relating to the 1819 treaty between Spain and the United States for the purchase of Florida are concerned chiefly with the payment of claims from inhabitants of East Florida for losses of slaves caused by American forces in 1812 and 1814 (19A-D8.4, 20A-D9.1, 43A-F11.8, 49A-F15.2). Another Spanish-related concern had to do with affairs in Cuba. A manuscript copy of an 1859 report on unadjusted differences with Spain discussed the future of Cuba (35A-D7.5). A decade later, in a transmittal letter which accompanied various documents on Cuba, Secretary of State Hamilton Fish gave his view on the role of Congress vis-a-vis the President in the conduct of foreign affairs (40A-F9.8). Additional information on Cuba was collected by the committee from 1875 to 1895 (44A-F16.3, 48A-F13.15, 54A-F16.4).

**10.37** Relations with other countries in the Caribbean area were of special concern to the committee as well. Relations with Santo Domingo, 1868-71, are documented in the committee papers (40A-F9.13, 41A-F10.6, 41A-F10.10). Files relating to Haiti focused on the question of American recognition (24A-D10.4, 28A-D12.2) and on internal conditions (40A-F9.10). Papers on Nicaragua dealt with the capture of William Walker in 1857 (35A-D7.3) and an interoceanic canal, 1879-87 (46A-F15.4, 47A-F12.5, 48A-F13.2, 49A-F15.6). In addition, the committee examined the matter of trade with the British West Indies (27A-D8.2).

**10.38** Just as the committee papers have information on America's neighbors to the south, they also contain information on Canada and/or British North America. Matters concerning the American border with Canada and/or the St. Lawrence River are considered in a number of files (19A-D8.3, 31A-D7.3, 38A-E7.1, 39A-F9.1, 43A-F11.10, 54A-F16.6). Other files concern American fishing rights in North American waters (49A-F15.10), trade (25A-D10.4, 52A-F18.6), and construction of war vessels on the Great Lakes (54A-F16.3).

**10.39** Committee papers relating to islands in the Pacific, especially Hawaii (47A-F12.4, 53A-F16.2) and Samoa (50A-F15.l), emphasize American commercial interests. While the committee played a secondary role to the Education and Labor Committee in the enactment of legislation restricting Chinese immigration to the United States, papers of the Foreign Affairs Committee reflect an interest in the subject vis-a-vis treaty commitments with China (43A-F11.3, 48A-F13.17, 49A-F15.7). Other Far Eastern concerns were relations with Japan, including Japanese Indemnity Fund matters (41A-F10.5, 45A-F15.4, 46A-F15.3, 48A-F13.9, 49A-F15.8), and Korea (49A-F15.9), as well as additional topics relating to China (36A-D10.1, 40A-F9.7, 49A-F15.7).

**10.40** As for Europe, the committee papers relating to American relations with Great Britain predominate (including 29A-D7.2, 39A-F9.7, 40A-F9.4, 42A-F10.6, 43A-F13.14, 44A-F16.5, 48A-F13.14), but relations with France are also well represented (including 36A-D10.3, 41A-F10.17, 48A-F13). Among the committee papers is a bill for the establishment of a permanent court of arbitration for the United States, Great Britain and France (50A-F15.4). In the latter part of the 19th century committee papers include items on American participation in international trade expositions in Great Britain (49A-F15.1), France (39A-F9.9, 40A-F9.15, 45A-F15.3, 50A-F15.6), Austria (42A-F10.2), Hungary (48A-F13.7), Spain (52A-F18.2), as well as in Australia (46A-F15.1, 50A-F15.6, 51A-F15.7).

**10.41** Charges of banishments of criminals to the United States involved both Hannover (39A-F9.2) and Great Britain (50A-F15.2). Another prison-related concern of the committee had to do with Americans, including those of Irish background, incarcerated in foreign lands, (27A-D8.3, 43A-F11.1, 54A-F16.7). The committee's concern was not limited to fair treatment for Americans, since Russia's treatment of Jews (51A-F15.9) and Turkey's treatment of Armenians (54A-F16.2) also received special attention.

***Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 55th-79th Congresses (1897-1946)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 20 vols. | 1897-1901, 1905-41 | 55th-56th, 59th-76th |
| Docket Books | 20 vols. | 1897-1925, 1927-29<br>1931-33, 1937-1944 | 55th-68th, 70th, 72d<br>75th-78th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 22 ft. | 1897-1909, 1911-17<br>1919-25, 1929-31<br>1933-38, 1941-46 | 55th-60th, 62d-64th<br>66th-68th, 71st,<br>73d-75th, 77th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 22 ft. | 1897-1917,<br>1919-27<br>1929-1946 | 55th-64th, 66th-69th<br>71st-79th |
| Bill Files | 37 ft. | 1903-7, 1911-17<br>1919-23, 1925-46 | 58th-59th, 62d-64th<br>66th-67th, 69th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 81 ft. and 40 vols. (3 ft., 10 in.) | | |

*See tables for 11th-54th Congresses after para. 10.7 and for the 80th-90th Congresses after para. 10.57.

**10.42** The **minute books** are for full committee deliberations, but they do contain minutes for a few subcommittee meetings. Unlike the earlier minute books in which the clerk wrote longhand entries directly onto the pages of blank bound volumes, the entries in these books are typewritten on sheets that have been pasted into the volumes.

**10.43** Unlike transcripts of committee deliberations, the minutes provide only summary discussion of happenings. A typical example, one dated December 9, 1897 (55th Congress) reads: "Mr. Hitt, from the sub-committee on the Diplomatic and Consular Appropriation Bill, reported the bill back to the full committee, and after discussion he was directed to report it favorably to the House." For some meetings, the account is more detailed. On July 29, 1919, for example, the committee discussed the possibility of returning to the United States the remains of dead soldiers. The minutes record who was present at meetings and sometimes note how the committee members split in committee votes. Since transcripts do not exist for all committee meetings, the minutes may be the only clue as to what transpired at a given meeting.

**10.44** **Docket books** for the earlier Congresses usually include an alphabetical index by subject; for the later Congresses the index is by name of the Representative introducing a bill or resolution. For the earlier Congresses the docket entries appear in a single chronological listing and provide information on the date of introduction , the name of the Representative who presented the measure, the subject matter, and chairman's remarks. The most frequent type of "remarks" is a listing of the committee members who were assigned to consider the bill or resolution.

**10.45** By the early 20th century the format of docket books was changed from strict chronological listings to separate sections for different types of measures (i.e., House bills, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, House resolutions, Senate bills, Senate resolutions, and Senate joint resolutions) with chronological listings thereunder. These later entries consist of the printed endorsements from the back of bills or resolutions pasted into the volume. Occasionally the entries have been annotated to show what happened to the bill or resolution.

**10.46** The quantity of **petitions and memorials** varies greatly from Congress to Congress, ranging from negligible to more than two feet. Claims petitions are not a significant category.

**10.47** The petitions relate to contemporary issues, including recognition of Cuban rights of belligerency prior to the Spanish-American War (55A-H6.3), an embargo on the exportation of war materials in the early days of World War I (63A-H7.4, 64A-H7.6), United States neutrality in the European conflict (63A-H7.7, 64A-H7.16), and related World War I matters (64A-H7.4, 64A-H7.8, 64A-H7.18, 64A-H7.19, 64A-H7.20). Later petitions involving World War II address issues of neutrality and the lend-lease policy (75A-H5.2, 77A-H22.1). During the early years of the 20th century, Americans on the Pacific coast expressed an interest in the exclusion of Chinese — and later of Japanese and Koreans as well — from entry into the United States (56A-H7.7, 57A-H7.3, 59A-H7.4, 60A-H11.3).

**10.48** Ethnic interests, especially those of German-Americans and Irish-Americans, were expressed in petitions received by the committee on such issues as the entry of the United States into World War I and support for the Boers in the war with Great Britain (56A-H7.3, 57A-H7.1). German-Americans alone voiced opposition to the use of black French-African troops in the post-World War I occupation of Germany (66A-H6.20). Irish-Americans, on the other hand, led in the opposition both to the Anglo-American arbitration treaty (60A-H11.1, 612A-H11.8) and to the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Ghent (63A-H7.3). Also, they were in the forefront of those calling for American recognition of the republic of Ireland (66A-H6.16).

**10.49** Jewish-Americans comprised another group of avid petitioners. Their protests about discrimination by the Russian government against Jewish-American travelers contributed to the decision to abrogate the 1832 treaty with Russia (60A-H11.10, 62A-H9.9). They voiced concern over pre-World War I discrimination against Jews in Russia and Roumania (57A-H7.5, 58A-H6.3, 59A-H7.8, 60A-H11.9), and World War I and post-war persecutions against their brethren in Eastern and Central Europe (64A-H7.1, 66A-H6.13), in Nazi Germany (73A-H5.4, 74A-H3.1), and in Poland (75A-H5.1). After World War II they called for the establishment of a Jewish nation in Palestine (78A-H5.1) and various State legislatures supported the proposal (79A-H5.3).

**10.50** Other ethnic and religious groups represented in the petitions include Polish-Americans' disapproval of anti-Polish actions by Prussia (60A-H11.8), Lithuanian-Americans' support for American recognition of the republic of Lithuania (66A-H6.16) and the Armenian-Americans' concern over the persecutions against the Christian population of Armenia (64A-H7.2, 67A-H4.5). Catholic groups in the United States objected to religious persecution in Mexico (74A-H3.1).

**10.51** Other petitions of note include those from chambers of commerce and other business-oriented groups calling for changes in the consular service (55A-H6.6, 56A-H7.4, 57A-H7.4, 58A-H6.4, 59A-H7.7, 62A-H9.2). Scientists and educators wrote support letters in favor of protection of migratory birds (64A-H7.3). Other petitioners expressed opinions on various aspects of relations with Canada (55A-H6.2, 57A-H7.2, 59A-H7.6, 62A-H9.5, 73A-H5.2, 77A-H22.2) and with Mexico (62A-H9.10, 63A-H7.6, 79A-H5.3). Petitions favoring arbitration of international disputes were submitted to successive Congresses (56A-H7.1, 58A-H6.5, 59A-H7.1, 63A-H7.1). So, too, were those supporting the World Court and/or the League of Nations (60A-H11.2, 64A.H7.10, 73A-H5.5). Radiograms from governments around the world expressing their condolences on the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt (79A-H5.3) are also in the petitions file.

**10.52** **Committee papers** for the 55th through the 79th Congresses include the same kind of documents found in committee files for earlier Congresses: bills, resolutions, reports, correspondence, transmittal letters from the President and the Secretary of State, and supporting documents. One difference is the inclusion in both manuscript and printed format of transcripts of committee hearings. While differences between the manuscript and printed committee reports and hearings are usually minimal, they can be noteworthy. For instance, Senate Document No. 51, 58th Congress, 2d session is a message from the President transmitting a report from the Secretary of State, with accompanying papers concerning the convention between the United States and Colombia for the construction of an interoceanic canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The printed version of an April 15, 1903, communication from A. M. Beaupre in Bogota to Secretary of State John Hay omits a sentence whereby Beaupre voices his suspicion that the Colombian government itself may have fostered opposition to the Panama Canal convention (58A-F12.1).

**10.53** Although the table for this section of the chapter shows that no committee papers exist for the 65th and 70th Congresses, it does not indicate the great variation in quantity and composition of the committee papers from one Congress to another. The arrangement and types of documents comprising the committee papers varies from Congress to Congress. For the 57th Congress (1901-1903) the papers are arranged by docket number. Under each docket there are the usual assortment of bills, reports and background documents. For other Congresses they are arranged according to subject.

**10.54** Several of those Congresses for which there is a considerable amount of committee papers include correspondence files. These are files of the committee chairman arranged either by subject, 1919-21 (66A-F17.2); by correspondent, 1923-25 and 1939-44 (68A-F17.1, 76A-F17.1, 77A-F14.1, 78A-F15.2); or by chronological grouping, 1937-38 (75A-F16.1). The latter file includes a March 8, 1938, letter from Ambassador to Britain, Joseph P. Kennedy to Chairman Sam D. McReynolds on the situation in Europe. For the most part the files arranged by correspondent cover relatively mundane topics, such as requests for hearings and postal instructions. More than half of the committee papers from the 64th Congress consist of telegrams to committee Chairman Henry D. Flood opposing America's entry into World War I (64A.F13.2) An overwhelming proportion of committee papers for the 74th Congress (1935-1936) concern an investigation into the dependence of the United States on foreign tin supplies (74A-F15.4).

**10.55** From 1911 to 1946 **bill files** form the essence of the papers of the committee. Only a few bill files exist for the 58th and 59th Congresses (1903-1907), but beginning with the 62nd Congress (1911-1913) the bill files become the most significant series of records for the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Bill files are arranged by types of legislation — House bills, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, House resolutions, Senate bills and Senate joint resolutions — and thereunder in numerical order. The basic file for a particular measure consists of the bill as introduced and ordered printed. The files may contain reports, hearings (in manuscript and sometimes in printed format) correspondence, and accompanying papers.

**10.56** From the Spanish-American War to World War I the committee's interest in regulating affairs along the Canadian-American border came to the fore with hearings during the 62d Congress (1911-1913) on H.R. 28674, a bill relating to the Niagara River (62A-D5). In the period immediately prior to American entry into World War I the committee held hearings on H.J.Res. 38, which called upon the President to convene a congress of neutral nations to offer mediation to the belligerents (64A-D6). The bulkiest bill files for the 66th Congress (1919-1921) are for H.R. 3404, salaries for a minister and consuls to Ireland; H.R. 9927 and H.J. Res. 91, the disposition of the remains of servicemen who had died in France; H.R. 11960, the International Boundary Commission; and H.Res. 635, 1920 hearings on the Russian revolution—all filed as 66A-D9. The largest bill file for the 67th Congress (1921-1923) concerns H.Res. 299, on the occupation of the Ukraine and East Galicia by troops of Poland (67A-D10).

**10.57** The largest bill file is for H.J. Res. 422, 74th Congress (1935-1936) which was to provide for the neutrality of the United States in the event of war (74A-D13). Another significant measure for the immediate pre-World War II years, although one for which the file is much thinner, is H.R. 1776 which became the 1941 Lend-Lease Act (77A-D13). For the 78th Congress the records for H.Res. 352 and H.Res. 418 contain correspondence from leaders of the Jewish-American community. H.Res. 352, introduced on November 9, 1943, referred to Nazi Germany's extermination of close to two million Jews and urged the creation by the President of a commission to formulate and effectuate a plan to save from extinction the surviving Jews in Europe; H.Res. 418 resolved that the United States use its influence to open Palestine to Jewish immigration in order to "reconstitute Palestine as a free and democratic Jewish commonwealth" (78A-D11).

***Records of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 27 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 212 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
|  | 21 vols. | 1963-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 36 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 275 ft. and 21 vols. (6 ft.) |  |  |

*See also tables for 11th-79th Congresses after paras. 10.7 and 10.41.

**10.58** At the present time holdings of the National Archives do not include minute books or docket books for the committee for the above Congresses. Some minute books, however, do exist since a committee print, Index of Minutes (82 Cong., 2d sess., 1952), covers the 64th-82d Congresses (1916-1952). The function of docket books has been supplanted by published calendars, issued during a session (80A-F7.9, 82A-F7.8).

**10.59** While the National Archives holds **petitions and memorials** for all of the 1947-68 period, the footage for each Congress varies from 3 inches for some to 16 feet for the 90th Congress, more than half of the total volume for the entire period. The petitions category is reserved for communications which were sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and referred to the committee; similar items of correspondence addressed to the committee chair are among committee papers, rather than petitions. For the period under consideration petitions played an insignificant role in shaping the committee's agenda for action. Major letter-writing campaigns account for most of the petitions. Half of the 5 feet of petitions for the 80th Congress are from Irish-Americans calling upon the President and Congress to help bring about the end of the partition of Ireland (80A-H5.8). The bulk of the petitions for the 90th Congress were initiated by the John Birch Society and called for a halt to aid in any form, directly or indirectly, to Communist nations (90 FA.7, also 88 FA.14).

**10.60** Files consisting of at least 2 inches of petitions concern support for Israel (80A-H5.9), strengthening the United Nations (80A-H5.12), freedom for Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary (81A-H5.2), American withdrawal from the United Nations (87A-H4.1), investigating the State Department (88 FA.14), and the results of a letter-writing campaign from Japan on behalf of imprisoned Japanese war criminals (83A-H4.7). Another group of foreigners who sent petitions to the committee consists of claimants from the Philippine Islands who sought compensation for military services rendered during World War II (86A-H5.1).

**10.61** During this period, 1947-68, the **committee papers** are the key resource for an understanding of the committee's activities. Quantity, however, is often not a real indication of importance for research. For example, of the committee papers for the 80th Congress (1947-48), more than 14 feet consists of letters to the committee opposing H.R. 1345, a bill which sought to reform the calendar by dividing the year into four equal quarters and fixing the dates of holidays such as Easter (80A-F7.5).

**10.62** For the 80th through the 87th Congresses (1947-1962) committee papers are a mixture of published sources, transmittals from the executive branch with accompanying documents, substantive files on select topics (e.g., mutual security program, Status of Forces Agreement), files for committee members, staff members and subcommittees, transcripts of committee meetings held in executive session, and such things as vouchers and requests for publications.

**10.63** Among the committee papers are 29 feet of security-classified records covering the 76th-90th Congresses (1939-69). Of this amount, 19 feet consists of transcripts of executive session hearings on foreign policy and mutual security, and include amendments offered in committee, executive agency comments, staff memoranda, and background data. Other records include General Accounting Office reports, foreign aid amendment books, background briefing books primarily on mutual security matters, and documents of the Subcommittee on Review of Foreign Aid Programs.

**10.64** Unclassified committee papers include files on significant areas of committee interest involving aid to China (80A-F7.2, 81A-F7.1), Greece and Turkey (80A-F7.3), Korea (81A-F7.1, 82A-F7.1, 87A-F5.11, 89 FA.5), Israel (82A-F7.1, 85A-F6.9, 88 FA.24), Vietnam (87A-F5.11, 89 FA.5), and Taiwan (89 FA.5); European postwar economic recovery (80A-F7.6, 81A-F7.5); mutual security concerns (82A-F7.9, 82A-F7.14, 83A-F6.3, 84A-F6.5, 85A-F6.1, 85A-F6.7, 86A-F6.15, 87A-F5.9, 87A-F5.11); and foreign assistance (88 FA.7, 88 FA.8, 89 FA.8). The committee's postwar study trips to foreign nations are documented in various files (81A-F7.2, 83A-F6.7, 84A-F6.12, 84A-F6.13, 84A-F6.19, 85A-F6.1, 85A-F6.13, 86A-F6.6, 86A-F6.10, 89 FA.5).

**10.65** An understanding of the workings of the committee can be gained by examining files of committee members (80A-F7.1, 82A-F7.12, 84A-F6.18, 85A-F6.10, 86A-F6.3, 86A-F6.4, 88 FA.12, 88 FA.13, 89 FA.9, 89 FA.15, 90 FA.2, 90 FA.3) and committee staff (80A-F7.1, 82A-F7.12, 84A-F6.18, 85A-F6.11, 85A-F6.23, 86A-F6.7, 86A-F6.8, 86A-F6.17, 87A-F5.5, 88 FA.11, 89 FA.5, 89 FA.6, 89 FA.14, 89 FA.25, 90 FA.4). Of particular value are those of committee chairs Thomas S. Gordon (85A-F6.10) and Thomas E. Morgan (86A-F6.3, 88 FA.13, 89 FA.9, 90 FA.2). Among the records of staff members those for Staff Administrator Boyd Crawford (including 86A-F6.7) and Senior Staff Consultant Roy J. Bullock (including 85A-F6.23, 86A-F6.8, 86A-F6.17) are especially noteworthy.

**10.66** Additional sources of information are committee reading files, included in both the regular committee papers (84A-F6.20, 85A-F6.19, 86A-F6.14, 87A-F5.8) and in bound volumes for the 88th-90th Congresses (1963-1968). Bound "Chairman's Reference Copies" for the 88th-90th Congresses in large measure duplicate the bound reading files. The reading files consist of copies of committee-generated documents, primarily correspondence. Some general correspondence files, however, also exist, and they include both incoming letters and copies of responses (83A-F6.2, 85A-F6.17, 86A-F6.9, 87A-F5.7).

**10.67** **Bill files** for this period vary in content from Congress to Congress. At a minimum each file contains one or more copies of the particular bill or resolution. Related documents may include some or all of the following: background correspondence, committee prints (including hearings), and printed reports. For a number of Congresses it is the exception, rather than the rule, to find anything in the folder other than a printed copy of the bill or resolution. Bill files for the 83rd Congress (1953-54), however, consist solely of printed hearings on H.R. 5710, the Mutual Security Act Extension.

**10.68** Bill files with contents out of the ordinary include those for the following: H.R. 2616 (80A-D5), assistance to Greece and Turkey; H.R. 5748 (81A-D7), the Foreign Military Assistance Act of 1949; H.R. 5895 (81A-D7), the Mutual Defense Assistance Act of 1949; H.R. 6382 (84A-D9), relating to the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission; H.R. 12181 (85A-D6), the Mutual Security Act of 1957; H.R. 11510 (86A-D4), the Mutual Security Act of 1960; H. Con. Res. 83 (86A-D4), concerning U.S. diplomatic representation in the Vatican City; S. 1983 (87A-D5), the Act for International Development of 1961; S. 2394 (87A-D5), an act concerning a land transfer with Mexico; S. 2768 (87A-D5), relating to an United Nations bond issue; S. 777 (88 FA.1), relating to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency; H.R. 7550 (89 FA.1), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1965; H.R. 12048 (90 FA.1), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1967; and H.R. 15263 (90 FA.1), the Foreign Assistance Act of 1968.

**10.69** After World War II standing subcommittees began to play a substantive role in committee affairs, in particular for minor legislation and oversight. The listing given below shows the extent of the standing subcommittee records for the 80th through 90th Congresses. Subcommittee titles have changed over the years; the titles shown are for the 90th Congress.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Asian and Pacific Affairs | 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-68. | (1 ft.) |
| National Security and Scientific Developments Affecting Foreign Policy | 80th-89th Congresses, 1947-66. | (1 in.) |
| Europe | 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-68. | (1 ft. 3 in.) |
| State Department Organization and Foreign Operations | 80th-90th Congresses, 1951-68. | (5 in.) |
| Inter-American Affairs | 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-68. | (5 in.) |
| Africa - Near East | 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-68. | (7 in.) |
| International Organizations and Movements | 80th-90th Congresses, 1947-68. | (1 ft. 8 in.) |
| Foreign Economic Policy | 80th-90th Congresses, 1953-68. | (8 in.) |

**10.70** Records for ad hoc and special subcommittees are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Passamaquoddy Project | 83d Congress, 1953-54 | (1 in.) |
| Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Chinese Communist Atrocities on U.S. Prisoners | 84th Congress, 1955-56 | (1 in.) |
| Review of the Mutual Security Programs | 86th-87th Congresses, 1961-62 | (8 ft.) |
| Review of Foreign Aid Programs | 88th-89th Congresses, 1963-66 | (9 ft.) |

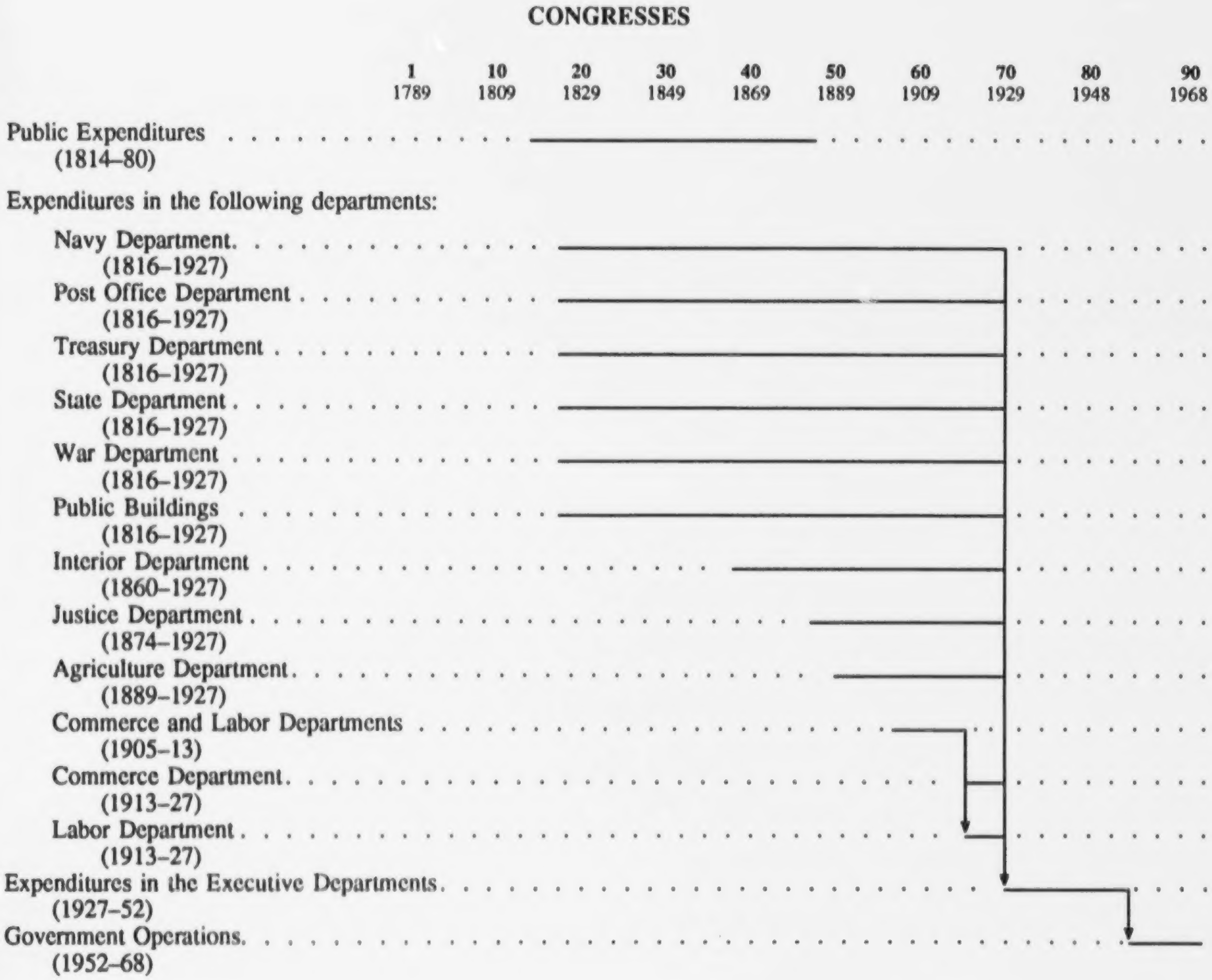
## Related Records

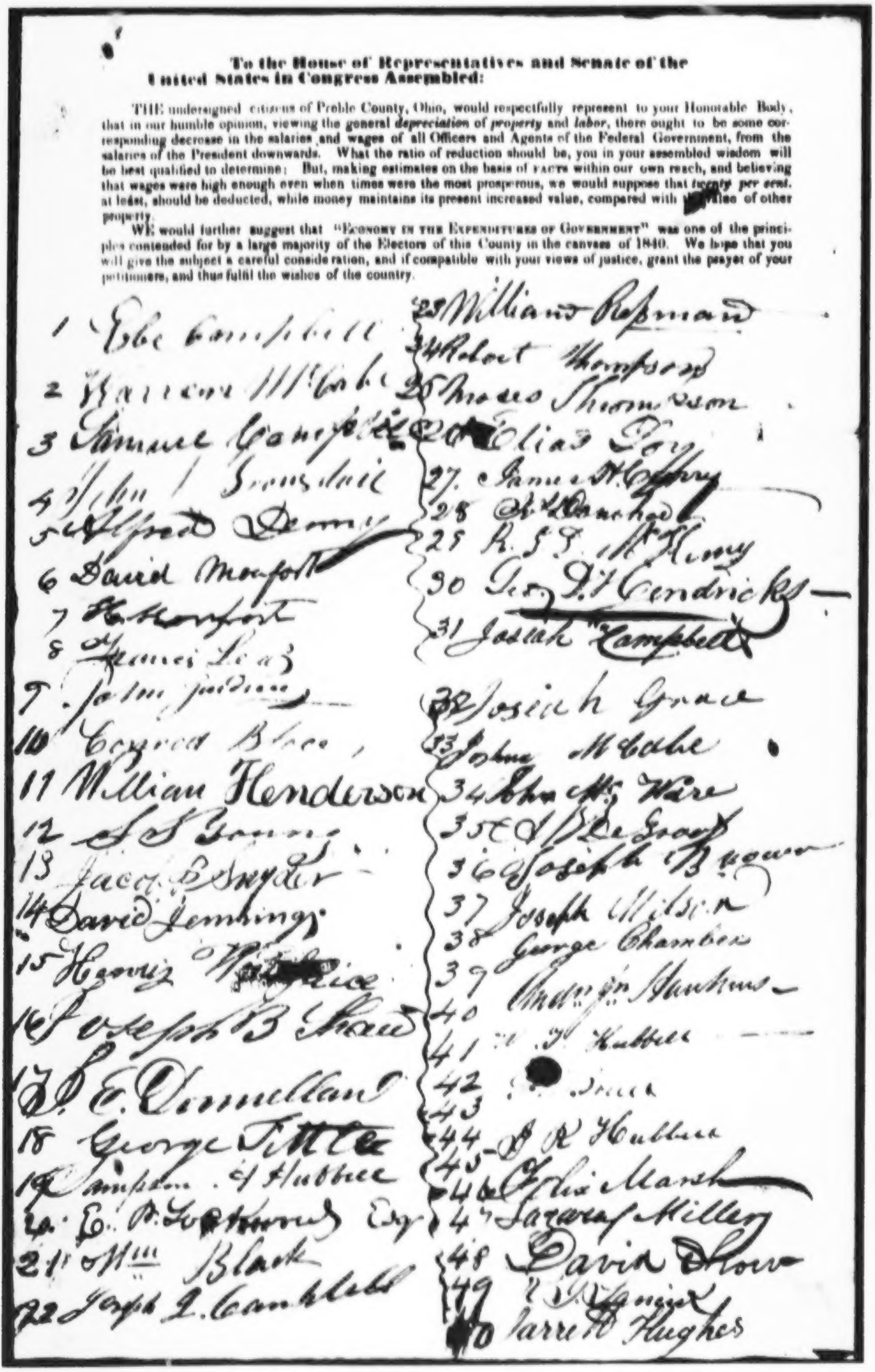
**10.71** Among the committee's records is a separate collection of approximately 60 feet of multiple copies of printed items for the 62d through 89th Congresses. This collection consists of bills, resolutions, public laws, various committee prints, reports, and the like.

**10.72** In addition to records of the committee those of the Select Committee on Foreign Aid, 1947-48 (25 feet), are of particular note. A more detailed description of these records can be found in Chapter 22.

# Chapter 11

# RECORDS OF THE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AND ITS PREDECESSORS


CONGRESSES
1 1789
10 1809
20 1829
30 1849
40 1869
50 1889
60 1909
70 1929
80 1948
90 1968
Public Expenditures (1814–80)
Expenditures in the following departments:
Navy Department. (1816–1927)
Post Office Department (1816–1927)
Treasury Department (1816–1927)
State Department (1816–1927)
War Department (1816–1927)
Public Buildings (1816–1927)
Interior Department (1860–1927)
Justice Department (1874–1927)
Agriculture Department. (1889–1927)
Commerce and Labor Departments (1905–13)
Commerce Department. (1913–27)
Labor Department. (1913–27)
Expenditures in the Executive Departments. (1927–52)
Government Operations. (1952–68)



**To the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States in Congress Assembled:**

THE undersigned citizens of Preble County, Ohio, would respectfully represent to your Honorable Body, that in our humble opinion, viewing the general *depreciation* of *property* and *labor*, there ought to be some corresponding decrease in the salaries and wages of all Officers and Agents of the Federal Government, from the salaries of the President downwards. What the ratio of reduction should be, you in your assembled wisdom will be best qualified to determine: But, making estimates on the basis of FACTS within our own reach, and believing that wages were high enough even when times were the most prosperous, we would suppose that *twenty per cent.* at least, should be deducted, while money maintains its present increased value, compared with [illegible] value of other property.

WE would further suggest that "ECONOMY IN THE EXPENDITURES OF GOVERNMENT" was one of the principles contended for by a large majority of the Electors of this County in the canvass of 1840. We hope that you will give the subject a careful consideration, and if compatible with your views of justice, grant the prayer of your petitioners, and thus fulfil the wishes of the country.

1 Ebe Campbell
2 Warren McCabe
3 Samuel Campbell
4 John [illegible]
5 Alfred Denny
6 David Monfort
7 H. Monfort
8 James Lea
9 John Jordan
10 Conrad Black
11 William Henderson
12 S S Young
13 Jacob Snyder
14 David Jennings
15 Henry Wallace
16 Joseph B Shaw
17 J. E. Donnellan
18 George Tittle
19 Simpson [illegible] Hubble
20 E. R. Lockwood Esq
21 Wm Black
22 Joseph G. Campbell
23 William Rossman
24 Robert Thompson
25 Moses Thomson
26 Elias Gay
27 James McCaffery
28 [illegible]
29 R. S. T. McHenry
30 Geo. D. Hendricks
31 Josiah Campbell
32 Josiah Grace
33 John McCabe
34 John Mc Ware
35 C A DeGraff
36 Joseph Brown
37 Joseph Wilson
38 George Chambers
39 Andrew Hawkins
40
41 [illegible] Hubbell
42 [illegible]
43
44 J R Hubble
45
46 Felix Marsh
47 Lazarus Miller
48 David Shaw
49 [illegible]
50 Jarrett Hughes

*Petitions such as the one shown here have sought relief from all sorts of fiscal woes by reducing the number of Government employees or the wages of those already employed. This petition, dated December 1, 1841, was signed by 182 citizens of Preble County, OH, and was referred to the Committee on Public Expenditures when it reached the floor of the House on January 17, 1842. (27A-G19.1)*

# CHAPTER 11

## RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS AND ITS PREDECESSORS

### Introduction

**11.1** Article I, section 9 of the Constitution provides that "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time." From the founding of our Government it has been the right of Congress, the legislative branch, to appropriate funds for the executive branch and to specify, except in extreme cases, where the funds should be spent. This chapter includes descriptions of the records of the Committee on Government Operations and numerous other standing committees, subcommittees, and special subcommittees of the House that have been created specifically to oversee the expenditure of funds by the executive agencies of the Government.

#### *History and Jurisdiction*

**11.2** Initially, the House appointed special committees to monitor the use of public moneys. In 1802, the Committee of Ways and Means was empowered to review expenditures and to report such provisions and arrangements "as may be necessary to add to the economy of the departments, and the accountability of their officers."[1] On February 26, 1814, Congress divided the duties of the Committee of Ways and Means and transferred that part relating to the examination of past expenditures to a standing Committee on Public Expenditures.[2]

**11.3** The Committee on Public Expenditures was to "examine into the state of the several public departments, and particularly into the laws making appropriations of moneys and to report whether the moneys had been disbursed conformably with such laws." It was also to report measures to increase the economy of the Departments and the accountability of officers.[3]

**11.4** In 1816 the House initiated an organizational change that provided a means of continuously and consistently following the operations of the various Departments and scrutinizing their expenditures. Henry St. George Tucker of Virginia proposed the appointment of six standing committees to examine the accounts and expenditures of the State, Treasury, War, Navy, and Post Office Departments, and those related to the construction and maintenance of public buildings.

**11.5** The committees were created on March 30, 1816,[4] and committees for the Departments of Interior, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor (later split into two committees), were established between 1860 and 1913. The jurisdiction of these new committees included the following subjects:

> The examination of the accounts and expenditures of the several Departments of the Government and the manner of keeping the same; the economy, justness, and correctness of such expenditures; their conformity with appropriation laws; the proper application of public moneys; the security of the Government against unjust and extravagant demands; retrenchment; the enforcement of the payment of moneys due to the United States; the economy and accountability of public officers; the abolishment of useless offices; [and] the reduction or increase of the pay of officers.[5]

**11.6** Until January 28, 1878, each committee generally consisted of three to five members. After that date, the number was fixed at seven. Frequently, first-term members of Congress were assigned to these committees. Abraham Lincoln, for example, served as a member of the Committee on Expenditures in the

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[1] *Annals of the Congress of the United States*, 7th Cong., 1st sess., Jan. 7, 1802, p. 412.

[2] *Journal of the House Representatives of the United States*, 13th Cong., 2d. sess., Feb. 26, 1814, pp. 311, 314.

[3] *Journal of the House Representatives of the United States*, 13th Cong., 2d. sess., Feb. 26, 1814, pp. 311, 314.

[4] *Journals of the House Representatives of the United States*, 14th Cong., 1st. sess., Mar. 30, 1816, p. 550.

[5] Asher C. Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907) vol. 4, p. 830, para. 4315.

War Department during the 30th Congress, his only term in Congress.

**11.7** From 1816 to 1927 the committees on expenditures reviewed the financial accountability of the Departments and infrequently followed the reviews with investigations. Although they usually had relatively little to do, at times the committees attained considerable importance and prominence. Faced with a substantative war debt during their first decade, most of the committees actively monitored their respective Departments and recommended ways to effect economies in departmental operations. The committees usually were busy and effective during periods of financial crisis, but their activities generally were curtailed when the United States was at war.

**11.8** The committees could conduct investigations with or without specific direction from the House. Authority for compelling testimony, however, had to be obtained from the House, except during the 44th and 45th Congresses. Because of this limitation, investigations made under authority of the rules were merely inquiries undertaken with the cooperation or acquiescence of the officers of the Departments involved. Investigations were also made at the request of Congress, but many investigations that the committees could have handled were conducted by special committees created specifically for the purpose.

**11.9** By 1879 the usefulness of the Committee on Public Expenditures was being questioned by the Committee on Rules which argued that the mission of the Committee on Public Expenditures essentially duplicated on a broad scale the work of the committees on expenditures of the individual Departments. The Committee on Rules maintained that one committee could not examine the financial management of the several Departments as thoroughly as committees whose sole purpose was to examine the accounts and expenditures of a single Department. Effective March 8, 1880, the Committee on Public Expenditures ceased to exist although Congress had stipulated that no standing committee should be abolished before March 3, 1881, the end of the 46th Congress. The Committee on Public Expenditures was revived as a select committee during the 47th Congress.

**11.10** The fate of the House committees on departmental expenditures was directly influenced by organizational changes in the Treasury Department. From 1817 to 1921 the Treasury Department employed six accounting officers called Auditors who examined accounts involving the collection or disbursement of public funds and decided which accounts were to be admitted or rejected. The seventh "Auditor" was the Comptroller of the Treasury whose principal duty was to construe the laws governing the disbursement and application of public moneys but who also occasionally reviewed accounts previously examinedby the Auditors. The work of the Auditors was not performed for Congress, and the audited accounts were not submitted to Congress.

**11.11** By the end of World War I Congress realized the limitations of its control over expenditures and its inability to monitor effectively the use of funds by the executive departments. In practice the executive branch audited its own accounts through the Treaury Department with relatively little congressional supervision. Consequently, as a measure designed to increase congressional control over expenditures as well as over matters of economy and efficiency in governmental operations, Congress passed the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921.

**11.12** The Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 (Public Law 67-13) combined the six auditing offices of the Treasury Department with the Office of the Comptroller of the Treasury to form the General Accounting Office (GAO). The GAO was separated from the Treasury Department and established as an independent office responsible to Congress. The act also created the Office of the Comptroller General and ordered that official to investigate "all matters relating to the receipt, disbursement, and applications of public funds" and to make reports to Congress on his work and recommendations and to "make such investigations and reports as shall be ordered by either House . . . or by any committee . . . having jurisdiction over revenue appropriations, or expenditures."

**11.13** When Alvan T. Fuller of Massachusetts resigned from the Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department in 1918, he said that the committee was "wasting the taxpayers' money" and was "the most inefficient and expensive barnacle that ever attached itself to a ship of state."[6] Following World War I most of the committees on expenditures continued to be relatively inactive, a situation that was aggravated after the General Accounting Office was created in 1921 because many committee members believed that the GAO was looking out for the interests of Congress. Because the committees were accomplishing so little, Congress, on the first day of the 70th Congress, December 5, 1927, abolished the 11 committees on expenditures and replaced them with a single committee, the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments.[7]

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[6] George B. Galloway, *Congress at the Crossroads.* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1946), p. 263, n. 46.

**11.14** The Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments consisted of 21 members. Initially its jurisdiction was the same as that of the departmental committees. In 1928 its jurisdiction was expanded to cover independent establishments and commissions. In time the committee acquired jurisdiction over a wide variety of activities. For example, it came to be responsible for facilitating the conservation of public lands and other natural resources by coordinating the conservation functions of executive agencies. It also became involved with recordkeeping requirements for various governmental agencies.

**11.15** During its early years the committee addressed a few select issues, such as the public works function in Government, the consolidation of veterans' affairs, and a retirement system for Federal employees. However, the Great Depression made monitoring economy and efficiency in the Government an urgent issue, and the committee's activities greatly increased under John J. Cochran of Missouri who chaired the committee from 1932 to 1940. America's entry into World War II, and the subsequent slowing down of New Deal activities led to a relatively inactive period for the committee.

**11.16** With the end of the war and passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (Public Law 79-601), the committee once again became active. This act charged the committee with receiving and examining the reports of the Comptroller General and of reporting on them to the House; studying the operation of government activities at all levels to determine their economy and efficiency; evaluating the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the government; and studying intergovernmental relationships.

**11.17** Much of the post-war committee work had to do with Government reorganizations. In 1939 Congress authorized the President to formulate plans for abolishing, consolidating, or regrouping agencies of the executive department in the interest of efficiency and economy and to transmit the plans to Congress where they were reviewed by the Committee. If the plans were not disapproved by the Committee and Congress did not reject them within 60 days they would automatically take effect. Beginning in 1949, the Committee also reviewed the recommendations of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (the Hoover Commission) and the reorganization plans subsequently submitted under the general Reorganization Act of 1949. This Act ratified the Hoover Commission's recommendations in principle and authorized the President to draw up specific reorganization plans. However, the legislators reserved to themselves the right to veto any plan by adverse vote of either House within 60 days of its submission. Subsequent legislation made similiar provisions about reorganization plans. Between 1949 and 1973, 19 of the 93 reorganization plans submitted by the President were rejected.

**11.18** Much of the work of the committee and its successor, the Committee on Government Operations, related to the work of the General Accounting Office. In 1946 the committee was charged in the Legislative Reorganization Act with responsibility for reviewing the audit reports of the General Accounting Office. These reports grew in number and scope after 1945 when Public Law 79-248 authorized the GAO to conduct audits of Government-owned agencies and again after 1949, when GAO began "comprehensive audits" of all Departments and agencies.

**11.19** On July 3, 1952, the Committee was renamed the Committee on Government Operations.[8] The jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Operations pursuant to the rules of the 90th Congress included:

> A. Budget and accounting measures, other than appropriations; B. Reorganizations in the executive branch of the Government; C. (1). receiving and examining reports of the Comptroller General of the United States and of submitting such recommendations to the House as it deems necessary or desirable in connection with the subject matter of such reports; (2). studying the operation of Government activities at all levels with a view to determining its economy and efficiency; (3). evaluating the effects of laws enacted to reorganize the legislative and executive branches of the Government; (4). studying intergovernmental relationships between the United States and States

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[7] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 70th Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 5, 1927, p. 8.

[8] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 82nd Cong., 2d sess., July 3, 1952, pp. 720-721.

and municipalities, and between the United States and international organizations of which the United States is a member.[9]

**11.20** For the purpose of performing its duties, the committee, or any of its subcommittees when authorized by the committee, was authorized to hold hearings and act at any time and place within the United States. It was also authorized to require by subpoena or otherwise the attendance of witnesses and the production of papers, documents, and books, and to take such testimony as it deemed necessary.

**11.21** The Committee's jurisdiction with respect to oversight responsibilities overlapped with that of most other standing committees. Such overlapping jurisdiction necessarily arose from the broad oversight functions assigned to the committee by the House rules.

**11.22** The work of the committee has increased with almost every Congress during the past four decades. The same has been true of the oversight activities of the other House committees, as a result, in part, of the directive in Section 136 of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 that "each standing committee . . . shall exercise continuous watchfulness of the execution . . . of any laws" by the administrative agencies within their jurisdiction, and by the requirement of the Reorganization Act of 1970, that the committees report annually on their oversight activities.

**11.23** Two series of records that document the administrative operation of the committees are common to most of the committees on expenditures for the period 1814-1927. **Minute books** contain information about committee membership and attendance at meetings, the appointment of clerks, topics discussed during the meetings, and lists of witnesses who appeared before the committees. The **docket books** contain information about the status of bills, correspondence, and actions of committee interest. Because the contents of the minute and docket books are basically the same for each committee, only those volumes that contain unusual information are mentioned specifically in the discussion of the records of each committee.

**11.24** Two other series that are found for most of the committees are **petitions and memorials** and **committee papers**. Relatively few petitions and memorials were referred to the committees and for most committees the footage for this series is negligible. Committee papers form the bulk of the records for most of the committees. These papers generally consist of financial statements and other fiscal records providing information about specific and contingent expenditures. Often detailed information is given about the expenses, salaries, and promotions of individual employees of the Government. Many of the records concern studies on the adjustment of pay and allowances for governmental workers. The volume of committee papers increases significantly with the 80th Congress (1947-49).

**11.25** The **bill files**, are found in great volume after the 80th Congress. They are arranged by Congress and thereunder by bill type: House bills, House resolutions, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and Senate concurrent resolutions, and thereunder by bill or resolution number.

## Committee on Public Expenditures (1814-80)

**11.26** There are records for this committee for the entire period of its existence.

*Records of the Committee on Public Expenditures, 13th-46th Congresses (1814-80)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 2 vols. | 1865-71, 1877-80 | 39th-41st, 45th-46th |
| Docket Books | 3 vols. | 1861-79 | 37th-45th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 in. | 1815-17, 1839-43<br>1847-49 | 14th, 26-27th<br>30th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1814-17, 1819-23<br>1827-33, 1839-45<br>1847-49, 1859-61<br>1863-65<br>1871-73<br>1875-77 | 13th-14th, 16th-17th<br>20th-22d, 26th-28th<br>30th, 36th<br>38th, 42d<br>44th |

TOTAL: 3 ft. and 5 vols. (5 in.)

**11.27** **Docket books** show the status of legislation and topics of committee interest. Occasionally, remarks are noted, which, in some instances, actually are minutes of meetings.

**11.28** **Petitions and memorials** are sparse. Calls in 1842 for "retrenchment and reform" in Congress and in the executive departments comprise most of the petitions and memorials (27A-G19.1).

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[9] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 90th Cong., 2d sess., Rule XI "Powers and Duties of Committees," p. 1315.

**11.29** **Committee papers** indicate the wide variety of activities that the committee reviewed or investigated to see if they were being conducted in an economical and efficient manner. For example, in 1822 and 1828 the committee conducted surveys to determine whether governmental departments were structured in a manner that facilitated reviews for accountability (17A-C22.1, 20A-D19.1). In 1841, the committee reviewed contract procedures to determine what benefits, if any, executive departments derived from the requirement that they accept the lowest bids for printing services and stationery supplies (26A-D22.1).

**11.30** Many matters relating to military procurement practices came within the committee's purview. Among the committee papers are records relating to an 1816 inquiry into the procurement practices of General William Henry Harrison in 1813-14 (14A-C13.1); an 1817 review of expenditures, including wartime contracts (14A-C13.2); and an 1844 inquiry into financial mismanagement by the commanding officer of the Florida Squadron during 1841-42 (28A-D24.1). Also included are records of three investigations of the financial affairs of military officers in 1842 (27A-D18.1, 27A-D18.2, 27A-D18.3).

**11.31** Committee papers concerning activities of civil agencies include records relating to an investigation of contracts for mailbags (27A-D18.5); a review of the expenditures on repairs, alterations, and improvement of the White House in 1842 (27A-D18.6); reports in 1848 on the Secretary of Treasury's annual report (30A-D19.1) and in 1860 on public printing (36A-D20.1); and a review of the operations of the New York Customhouse (38A-E18.1).

**11.32** The committee papers also include records created in 1831 and 1832 when the committee attempted to develop a better system for estimating the distance Members traveled to Congress (21A-D20.1, 22A-D20.1).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department (1816-1927)

**11.33** The earliest records extant are from the 16th Congress (1819-21).

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Navy Department, 14th-69th Congresses (1816-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 3 vols. | 1891-1893, 1907-11 | 52d, 60th-61st |
| Docket Books | 1 vol. | 1907-9 | 60th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1865-67 | 39th |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1819-21, 1829-35<br>1843-45, 1859-61<br>1875-77, 1887-89<br>1893-95, 1907-9<br>1919-21 | 16th, 21st-23d<br>28th, 36th<br>44th, 50th<br>53d, 60th<br>66th |
| TOTAL: 1 ft. and 4 vols. (4 in.) | | | |

**11.34** Few **petitions and memorials** exist for this committee. One that has been preserved is a January 1867 petition by employees of the Washington Navy Yard requesting an increase in their pay (39A-H9.1).

**11.35** Most of the **committee papers** concern accounting for the contingency expenditures in the Navy Department; investigating contracting practices (28A-D8.1, 36A-D7.1, 44A-F11.1); and reviewing pay and allowances (16A-D7.1, 66A-F12.2). Records relating to President Theodore Roosevelt's communication to Congress of February 25, 1909 concerning the needs of the Navy are included in this series (60A-F16.1).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department (1816-1927)

**11.36** The earliest records available date from the 17th Congress (1821-23).

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department, 14th-69th Congresses (1816-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 4 vols. | 1889-91 1907-9<br>1911-13 | 51st, 60th<br>62d |
| Docket Books | 3 vols. | 1889-91, 1907-9<br>1911-13 | 51st, 60th<br>62d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1911-13 | 62d |
| Comm. Papers | 12 ft. | 1821-23, 1829-31<br>1843-45, 1891-97<br>1905-9, 1911-15<br>1917-19 | 17th, 21st<br>28th, 52d-54th<br>59th-60th, 62d-63d<br>65th |
| TOTAL: 12 ft. and 7 vols. (6 in.) | | | |

**11.37** The **minutes** of the meetings held during the 1911-13 period, document the committee's efforts to review the economy and efficiency of the Post Office Department's operations, conflicts of interest by postmasters, and the political involvement of postal employees (62A-F11.2).

**11.38** Only a few **petitions and memorials** exist for this committee. Most are from various groups calling for an investigation of the Post Office Department's actions against a Socialist weekly, *The Appeal to Reason* (62A-H8.1), or protesting the Post Office Department's actions against certain publications, including the *Woman's National Daily* (62A-H8.2).

**11.39** Over 90 percent of the **committee papers** consists of listings of bidders for contracts for mail delivery routes during the years 1891-95 (52A-F15.1, 53A-F13.1). Most of the remaining records relate to reports of and examinations of Post Office Department contingent expenses. Among the most interesting of the committee papers are those of a subcommittee appointed during the 59th Congress to determine whether the Post Office Department was harrassing E. G. Lewis, publisher of *The Woman's Magazine* and *Woman's Farm Journal* (59A-F13.1, 59A-F13.2, 62A-F11.1).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department (1816-1927)

**11.40** The earliest records available for this committee are from the 21st Congress (1829-31).

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Treasury Department, 14th-69th Congresses (1816-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 4 vols. | 1891-95, 1907-9<br>1915-17 | 52d-53d, 60th<br>64th |
| Docket Books | 7 vols. | 1859-61, 1879-81<br>1889-95, 1907-9<br>1915-17 | 36th, 46th<br>51st-53d, 60th<br>64th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1839-41, 1893-95<br>1907-11 | 36th, 53d<br>60th-61st |
| Comm. Papers | 2 ft. | 1829-31, 1859-61<br>1865-67, 1875-83<br>1887-89, 1891-93<br>1895-97, 1909-27 | 21st, 36th<br>39th, 44th-47th<br>50th, 52d<br>54th, 61st-69th |
| Bill Files | 5 in. | 1907-9, 1913-19<br>1923-25 | 60th, 63d-65th<br>68th |
| TOTAL: 3 ft. and 11 vols. (9 in.) | | | |

**11.41** **Petitions and memorials** for this committee are sparse. Most of them either oppose closing certain customs offices in 1894 (53A-H10.1) or support legislation in 1908 relating to the appointment of pharmacists in the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service (60A-H10.1).

**11.42** The **committee papers** contain records relating to numerous investigations. They include inquiries into the way the fund for the relief of sick and disabled seamen was expended (36A-D8.1); the sale of captured and abandoned cotton and other property from 1865 to 1867 (44A-F14.1); the water-proofing process employed in the manufacture of fractional currency (44A-F14.2); the effectiveness of the Secret Service and fraud in the Customs Service in New York City (61A-F18.1); and the management of St. Elizabeths Hospital (68A-F14.1) and the War Risk Insurance Bureau (66A-F14.1, 66A-F14.2). Also included are records created when the committee attempted from 1909 to 1912 to make the Treasury Department more efficient (61A-F18.1, 62A-F13.2, 62A-F13.3).

**11.43** Additional information about efforts in 1908 to regulate the appointment of pharmacists in the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service (60A-D7) is found in the **bill files**. Also included are records concerning efforts in 1918 to determine money due the Government from the States (65A-D5); and attempts in 1924 to determine Government indebtedness and to review income tax returns of Harry F. Sinclair and other associates of his oil company (68A-D9). There are also records relating to hearings held in

1916 to determine how effectively income taxes were being collected (64A-D5).

## Committee on Expenditures in the State Department (1816-1927)

**11.44** The earliest records for this committee date from the 17th Congress (1821-23).

***Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the State Department, 14th-69th Congresses (1816-1927)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 3 vols. | 1879-81, 1907-9<br>1911-15 | 46th, 60th<br>62d-63d |
| Docket Books | 4 vols. | 1877-81, 1885-87<br>1907-9, 1911-13 | 45th-46th, 49th<br>60th, 62d |
| Bound Reports | 1 vol. | 1827-39 | 20th-25th |
| Comm. Papers | 2 ft. | 1821-25, 1827-33<br>1835-39, 1843-45<br>1875-81, 1909-13<br>1919-27 | 17th-18th, 20th-22d<br>20th-22d, 28th<br>44th-46th, 61st-62d<br>66th-69th |

TOTAL: 2 ft. and 7 vols. (7 in.)

**11.45** The **committee papers** include one volume of committee reports covering the period April 5, 1828 to May 26, 1838.

**11.46** The committee infrequently conducted investigations of financial irregularities by Department personnel. Among the committee papers are records concerning several investigations undertaken during the 1876-79 period on financial dealings of American diplomatic personnel and fiscal operations in American diplomatic and consular offices (44A-F13.1, 44A-F13.2, 46A-F12.1, 46A-F12.2, 46A-F12.3, 46A-F12.4).

## Committee on Expenditures in the War Department (1816-1927)

**11.47** The earliest records are from the 16th Congress (1819-21).

***Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department, 14th-69th Congresses (1816-1927)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Book | 1 vol. | 1885-87 | 49th |
| Docket Books | 2 vols. | 1885-87, 1907-9 | 49th, 60th |
| Minutes | 1 in. | 1839-41, 1881-83<br>1925-27 | 26th, 47th<br>69th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1863-65, 1887-89 | 38th, 50th |
| Comm. Papers | 25 ft. | 1819-23, 1831-33<br>1837-43, 1859-61<br>1875-81, 1885-87<br>1895-1903, 1907-11<br>1913-15, 1919-27 | 16th-17th, 22d<br>25th-27th, 36th<br>44th-46th, 49th<br>54th-57th, 60th-61st<br>63d, 66th-69th |

TOTAL: 25 ft. and 3 vols. (2 in.)

**11.48** In addition to the **minute book** some unbound minutes are among the committee papers. These cover committee meetings held during January and February 1840 (26A-D8.1), February through June 1882 (47A-F11.3) and, on May 10, 1926 (69A-F17.2).

**11.49** Only a few **petitions and memorials** exist for this committee. Among them is a 1864 petition from a Washington, DC, resident complaining about mismanagement of the Military Storekeeping Department in the District (38A-G6.1) and several 1888 petitions regarding the establishment of a National Bureau of Harbors and Water Works under the War Department (50A-H9.1).

**11.50** Forms used to certify the inspection of money accounts of Army disbursing officers, for 1877-1914 (with a few gaps) and 1921-1924 constitute the majority of the **committee papers**; they provide detailed accountings of Army expenses. However, a sizable portion of the committee papers concerns examinations of specific and contingent War Department expenditures, and a substantial quantity of the material documents various financial activities of the War Department. Included are records concerning outstanding checks issued by Army disbursing officers during the years 1892 to 1899; abstracts of articles and services purchased for the Army, 1886-1894; and lists of contracts made by the War Department and its bureaus, 1886-1894.

**11.51** Records relating to investigations are also contained in the committee papers. Typical are documents concerning an 1860 investigation to determine why an 1852 contract for marble columns for the

Capitol extension had not been completed (36A-D9.1), an 1876 inquiry into the payments for publishing *The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion*. (44A-F15.1), and an 1878 investigation into the financial activities of the chief inspector of clothing at the quartermaster's depot in Philadelphia (45A-F14.1). Also included in the committee papers are records relating to efforts in 1878 to reduce the clerical force in the War Department (46A-F14.1) and an 1842 printed report on extra pay to compensate Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott for services rendered in the 1838 Cherokee removal (27A-D7.1).

## Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings (1816-1927)

**11.52** Records for this committee are sparse, particularly after the 44th Congress (1875-77).

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures on the Public Buildings, 14th-69th Congresses (1816-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Docket Book | 1 vol. | 1889-91 | 51st |
| Bound Report | 1 vol. | 1815-41 | 14th-26th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1825-27 | 19th |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1815-23, 1825-29<br>1835-41, 1843-47<br>1853-55, 1875-77<br>1907-9 | 14th-17th, 19th-20th<br>24th-26th, 28th-29th<br>33d, 44th<br>60th |

TOTAL: 1 ft. and 2 vols. (5 in.)

**11.53** **Petitions and memorials** are virtually non-existent for this committee. The one petition in the records was submitted in 1826 by William J. Chaffee regarding his design for "ornamenting the pediment of the Capitol" (19A-G6.1).

**11.54** About half of the **committee papers** are reports of the Commissioner of Public Buildings regarding expenditures between 1816 and 1846 on public buildings, primarily in Washington, DC. Included are reports relating to an 1817 plan for "warming" the public buildings (14A-C12.2) and the status of fire fighting equipment in Washington, DC in 1826 (19A-D7.3). A number of detailed reports and other records concern the White House and its furnishings between 1816 and 1840 (14A-C12.1, 15A-D13.1, 19A-D7.2, 26A-D7.1) and work done on the Capitol between 1816 and 1827 (14A-C12.1, 15A-D13.1, 17A-C8.1, 19A-D7.1).

**11.55** A few committee papers relate to public buildings outside Washington, DC. Among these are an 1840 report on the branch mint at Charlotte, NC (26A-D7.2) and records from 1876 relating to the contract for the construction of the New York Post Office (44A-F12.1).

**11.56** A bound volume of committee reports covers the period from February 18, 1817 to July 21, 1840.

## Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department (1860-1927)

**11.57** The Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department was created on March 16, 1860. The earliest records for this committee are from the 44th Congress (1875-77).

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Interior Department, 36th-69th Congresses (1860-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 6 vols. | 1875-77, 1891-93<br>1907-13, 1919-21 | 44th, 52d<br>60th-62d, 66th |
| Docket Books | 3 vols. | 1907-13 | 60th-62d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 8 in. | 1907-13 | 60th-62d |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1875-81, 1895-97<br>1907-11, 1919-27 | 44th-46th, 54th<br>60th-61st, 66th-69th |
| Bill Files | 2 in. | 1907-9, 1919-21 | 60th, 66th |

TOTAL: 2 ft. and 9 vols. (7 in.)

**11.58** The **minute book** for the 44th Congress contains information about the committee's actions in investigating alleged abuses and irregularities at the Government Hospital for the Insane (St. Elizabeths Hospital); and alleged frauds involving the issuance of Chippewa and Sioux "Half-Breed" script, land surveys in Washington Territory, the patent of the "Flag-Staff" Mining Company of Utah, and the employees of the Patent Office.

**11.59** Most of the **petitions and memorials** relate to efforts in 1910 and 1911 to establish a national health bureau (61A-H8.2, 62A-H7.1) and to efforts in 1909 and 1910 to establish a children's bureau in the Interior Department (60A-H9.1, 61A-H8.1).

**11.60** The **committee papers** provide information on a 1910 investigation of misuse of funds in the General Land Office (61A-F15.1); efforts in 1908-09 to establish a children's bureau (60A-F14.1, 61A-F15.2); and reviews of the contingent and other expenditures in the Department, including those for St. Elizabeths Hospital and the Freedman's Hospital, conducted between 1896 and 1926. A 91-page volume contains a detailed listing of contingent expenses in the Patent Office during the 1875-78 period (46A-F11.1).

**11.61** The **bill files** contain information on efforts in 1908 to establish a children's bureau in the Interior Department (60A-D5) and in 1919 to create a department of public works (66A-D7).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Justice Department (1874-1927)

**11.62** The Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice was created on January 16, 1874. The earliest records for this committee date from the 44th Congress (1875-76).

***Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Justice, 43d-69th Congresses (1874-1927)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 6 vols. | 1883-89, 1897-99<br>1907-09 | 48th-50th, 55th<br>60th |
| Docket Books | 4 vols. | 1875-77, 1885-87<br>1891-93, 1907-9 | 44th, 49th<br>52d, 60th |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1883-87, 1907-9<br>1921-23 | 48th-49th, 60th<br>67th |
| Bill Files | 1 in. | 1907-9 | 60th |
| TOTAL: | 1 ft. and 10 vols. (9 in.) | | |

**11.63** One of the **docket books** contains a memorandum listing correspondence for the period February-April 1876 for B. G. Caulfield, a member of both the Judiciary Committee and the Committee on Expenditures in the Justice Department. Most of the letters involve requests to the Attorney General for information and records.

**11.64** Most of the **committee papers** date from the years 1884-86 and concern investigations into financial and political irregularities by U.S. Marshals, U.S. District Attorneys, and other officers appointed by or connected with the Department of Justice (48A-F11.1, 48A-F11.2, 48A-F11.3, 49A-F12.1) and into alleged fraud in the "Star Route" mail service (48A-F11.4). They also contain information about irregularities in accounts of the Pension Office (49A-F12.1) and the Department of Justice (48-F.11.2).

**11.65** The **bill files** consist only of copies of 1908 bills relating to the collection of fees associated with naturalization laws (60A-D6).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Agriculture Department (1889-1927)

**11.66** The Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Agriculture was created on December 20, 1889. The earliest records are from the 52d Congress.

***Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Agriculture, 51st-69th Congresses (1889-1927)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 4 vols. | 1891-93,1905-11 | 52d, 59th-61st |
| Docket Book | 1 vol. | 1891-93 | 52d |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1891-93, 1905-11<br>1925-27 | 52d, 59th-61st<br>69th |
| TOTAL: | 3 ft. and 5 vols. (4 in.) | | |

**11.67** Statements of expenditures of the Department of Agriculture for the years 1891-92 and 1907-10 constitute most of the **committee papers** papers. There are also records related to a 1909 North American Conservation Conference (60A-F13.3).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Commerce and Labor Department (1905-13)

**11.68** The Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor was created on December 11, 1905. It was terminated in 1913 and was succeeded by the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce and the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Labor. There are virtually no records for this committee.

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce and Labor, 59th-63d Congresses (1905-13)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comm. Papers | 1 in. | 1909-11 | 61st |
| TOTAL: | 1 in. | | |

**11.69** Two printed House documents relating to efforts in 1910 to establish a children's bureau in the Department of Commerce and Labor and two pamphlets published by the National Child Labor Committee constitute the **committee papers** (61A-F14.1).

## Committee on Expenditures in the Commerce Department (1913-27)

**11.70** The Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce was created on May 27, 1913. The few records that exist for this committee are from the 67th Congress.

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Commerce, 63d-69th Congresses (1913-27)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comm. Papers | 2 in. | 1921-23 | 67th |
| TOTAL: | 2 in. | | |

**11.71** Statements of disbursements, including individual pay and allowances, made within the Department of Commerce, comprise most of the **committee papers.**

## Committee on Expenditures in the Labor Department (1913-27)

**11.72** The Committee on Expenditures in the Department of Labor was created on May 27, 1913. The National Archives holds no records for this committee.

## Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, (1927-52)

**11.73** This committee was created on December 5, 1927, to replace the 11 expenditures committees that were terminated at that time.

*Records of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, 70th-82d Congresses (1927-52)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 in. | 1931-33, 1947-52 | 72d, 80th-82d |
| Comm. Papers | 125 ft. | 1927-52 | 70th-82d |
| Bill Files | 9 ft. | 1927-49, 1951-52 | 70th-80th, 82d |
| TOTAL: | 134 ft. | | |

**11.74** Most of the **petitions and memorials** are calls for additional benefits for disabled veterans (72A-H3.1) and the implementation of various recommendations of the Hoover Commission (81A-H4.1).

**11.75** War Department accountability forms for 1931-38 and ledger-type reports for 1939-42, constitute most of the committee papers before the 80th Congress. Similar forms for earlier periods are found in the records of the Committee on Expenditures in the War Department (see para. 11.45). Most of the committee papers for the full committee for the 1927-52 period consist of mandatory agency reports, legislative recommendations and reports submitted by the Comptroller General, and original messages and executive orders from the President.

**11.76** The committee papers also include unbound minutes of committee meetings held in 1941-42 (77A-F12.3), 1943 (78A-F14.4) 1945-46 (79A-F13.3), and 1947 (80A-F6.4).

**11.77** Hearings and investigations are documented in the committee papers as well. There are records pertaining to hearings on St. Elizabeths Hospital in 1928 (70A-F12.1); hearings on the National Archives in 1936 (74A-F13.2); hearings on the Federal Trade Comission and the Social Security Board in 1943 (78A-F13.2); a 1937 investigation of executive agency expenditures on publicity, travel, and reproduction work (75A-F14.1); and an investigation in 1948 of the effectiveness of Civil Service Commission investigations (80A-F6.4).

**11.78** The committee papers also contain information on efforts in 1937-38 to reorganize the Government (75A-F14.4), the work of the Hoover Commission and reorganization plans for 1946-50 (79A-F13.2, 80A-F6.7, 81A-F6.3, 81A-F6.6), and reorganization of the Armed Forces under the National Security Act of 1947 (80A-F6.4).

**11.79** Much of the work of the Committee was accomplished by its subcommittees. In most instances the subcommittee records (104 ft.) include correspondence, memoranda, transcripts of hearings, minutes of meetings, reports, bills and resolutions with accompanying papers and exhibits, general administrative records and reference materials, investigative files, and questionnaires and exhibits,

**11.80** While most of the subcommittee records are filed separately, the committee papers contain records related to a 1935-36 effort by a subcommittee to investigate the organization of all agencies with a view to reducing expenditures and increasing efficiency through consolidation and coordination of governmental activities (74A-F13.4).

**11.81** Information about various reorganization plans are provided in the records of the **Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization** (81A-F6.7, 82A-F6.5, 6 in.).

**11.82** The records of the **Subcommittee on Extra Legal Activities** (2 in.) provide information on investigations of irregularities in the National Labor Relations Board, the Federal Reserve Board, and other organizations (80A-F6.13).

**11.83** The records of the **Subcommittee on Federal Relations with International Organizations** (3 ft.) relate to studies of international organizations and the cost of American participation in related programs, international narcotics control, inter-American cooperation, and efforts to create a department of peace (81A-F6.3, 81A-F6.7, 82A-F6.6).

**11.84** The records of the **Subcommittee on Government Operations** (13 ft.) pertain to a wide range of investigations and studies, including those relating to the operations of the General Accounting Office, Government use of consultants and advisory committees, activities of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the War Housing Disposal Program (81A-F6.3, 81A-F6.7). Housing construction at Andrews Air Force Base, procurement practices, and the operations of various governmental housing programs and agencies were also monitored by the subcommittee (82A-F6.7).

**11.85** The records of the **Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations** (13 ft.) involve several studies and investigations, including those related to military procurement, disposition of war surplus property, and the operations of the Bunker Hill School of Aeronautics. (81A-F6.3, 81A-F6.7, 82A-F6.1, 82A-F6.8)

**11.86** The records of the **Subcommittee on Paroles** (1 ft.) were created in the course of a 1947 investigation to determine why four of Al Capone's friends received early paroles (80A-F6.12).

**11.87** The records of the **Subcommittee on Procurement and Public Buildings** (20 ft.) document its investigations into waste and fraud, and its attempts to improve efficiency and economy in Government procurement and building construction and related operations (80A-F6.5, 80A-F6.14).

**11.88** The records of the **Subcommittee on Surplus Property** (28 ft.) concern efforts by the War Assets Administration and other agencies to dispose of surplus property during the 1946-48 period (80A-F6.9, 80A-F6.11). Some of the records were created during the 79th Congress as part of the Select Committee to Investigate Disposition of Surplus Property. For additional information on the Select Committee see Chapter 22, paras. 22.127-22.130.

**11.89** The records of the **Subcommittee on Public Accounts** (1 in.) are primarily administrative and are part of a series of records on subcommittees kept by the committee chairman (81A-F6.7).

**11.90** The records of the **Subcommittee on Publicity and Propaganda** (12 ft.) document investigations held to determine the degree to which civil servants, particularly those in the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, Bureau of Reclamation, and Federal Security Agency, were attempting to shape public opinion (80A-F6.6, 80A-F6.15).

**11.91** Information pertaining to various studies and investigations of the efficiency and effectiveness of the operations of the State Department is found in the records of the **Subcommittee on the State Department** (80A-F6.8, 80A-F6.16, 7 in.).

**11.92** There are records of several special subcommittees for the 82d Congress (1951-52). They include those of the **Special Subcommittee Investigating the Home Loan Board** (82A-F6.2, 10 ft.), the **Special Subcommittee Investigating House Construction in Alaska**

(82A-F6.3, 10 in.), and the **Special Subcommittee Investigating the Veterans Administration** (82A-F6.4, 5 in.).

**11.93** The **bill files** of the 1930's contain information about efforts to create a department of national defense (72A-D6, 73A-D8, 74A-D12, 75A-D11), the Public Works Administration (72A-D6), the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (72A-D6), and several other agencies. There is also information about a public works function in Government (70A-D8, 74A-D12), the organizational placement and coordination of veterans affairs (70A-D8, 71A-D8, 74A-D12), and the 1932 and 1945-46 governmental reorganization plans (72A-D6, 79A-D12).

**11.94** For the 1930's the bill files contain information about the committee's efforts to get contractors to name their subcontractors on Government-sponsored projects (72A-D6, 74A-D12, 75A-D11); to provide military pensions and disability compensation for World War I veterans (74A-D12); and to require Government agencies to purchase American manufactured goods (72A-D6), to give preference to American citizens in hiring (75A-D11), and to provide night differential pay (75A-D11).

**11.95** The committee's effort to improve the economy, efficiency, and the integrity of the Government is also documented in the bill files. Included is information about attempts to regulate government-related travel (71A-D8, 75A-D11), improve records disposition (76A-D12), reduce Federal and congressional wages (72A-D6), provide for uniform cost accounting and reporting systems for executive agencies (73A-D8, 74A-D12, 75A-D11), improve Government statistics (74A-D12, 75A-D11), reduce the number of reports the public is required to submit to the Government (77A-D11), restrict nepotism in governmental appointments (74A-D12), limit the employment of more than one family member in the Government (74A-D12), and improve the Budget and Accounting Act of 1921 (78A-D9).

**11.96** One of the largest collections of bill files is that dating from 1938 concerning H.R. 9848, which provided for the disposition of Army horses and mules. The legislation prompted a substantial number of letters from a wide variety of sources, including school children and Dale Carnegie (75A-D11).

## Committee on Government Operations (1952-68)

**11.97** The name of the Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments was changed to the Committee on Government Operations on July 3, 1952. The new name more clearly indicated the functions and duties of the committee.

***Records of the Committee on Government Operations 83d-90th Congress (1952-1968)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 ft. | 1955-68 | 84th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 363 ft. | 1953-68 | 83d-90th |
| Bill Files | 37 ft. | 1953-68 | 83d-90th |
| TOTAL: 401 ft. | | | |

**11.98** Most of the **petitions and memorials** relate to the creation and termination of Federal agencies.

**11.99** Included in the **committee papers** are calendars; committee prints of House reports and documents; transcripts of executive sessions; prints and transcripts of hearings; reference materials; administrative records; and minutes of meetings. There are also reports of negotiated sales and disposals of governmental property (5 ft.) and inventory reports from agencies providing information on their properties and assets (2 ft.). The committee papers also contain a series of chronological and alphabetical "reading" files for the 88th-90th Congresses (4 ft.); records kept by William L. Dawson on the work of the subcommittees; and, for most Congresses, General Accounting Office audit reports, often arranged by the subcommitttee to which they were referred.

**11.100** The committee papers include 47 feet of executive communications, including reports, from agencies and a small quantity of records on reorganization plans submitted annually by the President and subsequent action, such as hearings held on the creation of a "Department of Urban Affairs and Housing" (87A-F6.2).

**11.101** The committee papers for each Congress generally contain a distinct subject file providing information on the agencies and topics with which the committee dealt. There are also separate subject files on topics of interest, such as one on the implementation of the recommendations of the second Hoover Commission between 1955 and 1963 (88 GO.4).

**11.102** While most of the investigatory material is contained in the records of the standing and special committees, the committee papers contain 10 feet of such files, including records relating to the Government's public information activities (83A-F7.1), ideological bias in the work of the Library of Congress (83A-F7.1), activities of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (84A-F7.3), and the effectiveness of agencies in publicizing and enforcing conflict of interest statutes (87A-F6.4).

**11.103** The Committee utilized subcommittees and special subcommittees to accomplish much of its work.

**11.104** Records of the subcommittees (244 ft.) include minutes, reports, correspondence, memoranda, General Accounting Office audit reports, bills and resolutions referred to subcommittee and accompanying papers, printed copies and transcripts of hearings, prints of committee and House reports, transcripts of executive sessions, and subject files on agencies. Not every type of record is available for each subcommittee.

**11.105** The **Subcommittee on Anti-Racketeering** records (11 in.) were created during a 1954 investigation of racketeering in and around the Cleveland area and in the Washington, DC-Baltimore metropolitan area (83A-F7.14).

**11.106** Most of the records of the **Subcommittee on Executive and Legislative Reorganization** (38 ft.) relate to reorganizations, including the establishment of departments, agencies, commissions, and assignments of governmental functions to agencies and departments (84A-D7, 84A-F7.17, 85A-D7, 85A-F7.5, 86A-F7, 86A-D5, 86A-F7.12, 87A-F6.9, 88 GO.13, 89 GO.5, 89 GO.7, 89 GO.17-19, 89 GO.25, 90 GO.11). The largest quantity of records (8 ft.) pertains to an 1960-66 investigation of the Foreign Agricultural Service (88 GO.13, 89 GO.16). Ten inches of subcommittee records from the 89th Congress relating to the creation of the Department of Transportation were retired with records of the Legislative and National Security Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee for 92d Congress.

**11.107** The records of the **Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Government Information** (3 ft.) concern a variety of investigations and studies conducted during the mid-1960's, including the use of polygraphs as "lie detectors" by the Federal Government; U.S. economic aid and military assistance programs in Vietnam; U.S. aid operations in Latin America under the Alliance for Progress program, and issues related to access to governmental information (88 GO.15, 89 GO.5, 89 GO.7, 89 GO.25, 90 GO.11, 90 GO.12). Approximately 5 inches of records from this subcommittee for the 89th Congress are in the records of the Legislative and National Security Subcommittee for the 92th Congress. They provide information about trips to Southeast Asia, including Vietnam, to inspect various aid programs in 1966, 1967, and 1968, and trips to Brazil to inspect U.S. aid operations under the Alliance for Progress program.

**11.108** The records of the **Subcommittee on Foreign Operations and Monetary Affairs** (8 ft.) were created during investigations of the administration of overseas personnel, U.S. technical assistance in Latin America, administrative management of the Department of State, and aid to Iran (84A-F7.4); U.S. aid operations in Laos, executive branch practices in withholding information from congressional committees, and the management of the Federal Reserve and the Export-Import Bank (86A-F7.13); U.S. aid operations in Peru and Cambodia (87A-F6.10) and contracting activities of the Agency for Intenational Development and International Cooperation Administration (87A-F6.10).

**11.109** The records of the **Subcommittee on Government Activities** (24 ft.) provide information about the Government-owned nickel plant at Nicaro, Cuba (85A-F7.6, 87A-F6.11); the purchase and use of automated data processing equipment by the Federal Government (89 GO.5); data processing management in the Federal Government (90 GO.14); and the various agencies the committee had oversight responsibility for, including the General Services Administration.

**11.110** The records of the **Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations** (20 ft.) pertain to a variety of investigations and studies, including those related to commercial and industrial-type activities in the Federal Government, such as box manufacturing, printing, commissaries, and the postal savings system (83A-F715); the donable surplus property program (83A-F715); the business operations of Billie Sol Estes with the Government (87A F6.12, 88 GO.16, 89 GO.7);

export transactions and price support and storage activities; favoritism and conflicts of interest in the Commodity Credit Corporation (86A F7.20); Federal grants-in-aid to State and local governmental programs (87A-F6.12); safety of new drugs (88 GO.16, 89 GO.5, 89 GO.7, 90 GO.12); and the control of marijuana (90 GO.12)

**11.111** The records of the **Subcommittee on International Operations** (29 ft.) provide information on the Mutual Security Acts of 1951 and 1953; American activites in Korea, Japan, and Germany; and the operations of the Foreign Operations Administration, Technical Cooperation Agency, International Cooperation Administration, United States Information Agency, and the Voice of America program: Other subjects covered are foreign aid construction programs, international education programs, and the personnel practices of the State Department (83A-F7.16, 85A-F7.18-22).

**11.112** The records of the **Subcommittee on Legal and Monetary Affairs** (18 ft.) provide information about a variety of subjects the committee studied or investigated. During the 84th and 85th Congresses the subcommittee undertook extensive investigations into several areas, including tax amortization, labor racketeering, charitable frauds, immigration and naturalization, and false and misleading advertising of health products. It also reviewed various activities of the Department of Commerce, the Post Office Department, Treasury Department, and the Federal Trade Commission. (84A-F17-19, 85A-F7.9-12). During the 88th-90th Congresses the subcommittee reviewed crime against banking institutions, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation activities, and the Department of Justice procedures for collecting fines (88 GO.17); the activities of the Federal Reserve Board (89 GO.5, 89 GO.27); and the Federal effort against organized crime (90 GO.11, 90 GO.12).

**11.113** The records of the **Subcommittee on Military Operations** (30 ft.) provide information about a wide variety of topics, including the military property accounting systems; procurement policies and practices; organization and operation of the military supply management program; disposition of military surplus property; defense contracts; civil defense management; organization and management of the military missile programs; management of nuclear submarine development; Government use of satellite communication; use of computers in information retrieval; and unnecessary costs in various programs (83A-F7.17, 87A-F6.13, 86A-F7.21, 88 GO.18, 89 GO.5, 89 GO.28, 89 GO.7, 90 GO.11, 90 GO.17). There are 2 feet of subcommittee records for the 86th-90th Congresses that were retired by the Legislative and National Security Subcommittee of the Government Operations Committee. Included in these records is information about flight pay, chemcial warfare, communication satellites, and military and civilian missile programs.

**11.114** Information about problems with the Nation's water resources and water pollution control is found in the records of the **Subcommittee on National Resources and Power** (88 GO.19, 89 GO.5, 89 GO.29, 90 GO.11, 90 GO.12, 4 ft.).

**11.115** Information about hearings on 1953 investigations of inefficiencies in the Post Office Department's delivery of the mail and of maritime mobilization capabilities are found in the records of the **Subcommittee on Public Accounts** (83A-F7.18, 2 in.).

**11.116** The records of the **Subcommittee on Public Works and Resources** (16 ft.) consist primarily of investigations and studies of the Rural Electrification Administration, rural electric cooperatives, powerline regulations, mining claims, Federal timber policy, utilities, and various government activities in the Virgin Islands and Alaska (84A-F7.5-11, 85A-F7.13-15).

**11.117** The records of the **Subcommittee on Research and Technical Programs** (20 ft.) provide information on Federal research and development programs; the use of social research in Federal domestic programs; cuts in Federal expenditures for research and development activities abroad; utilization of Federal laboratory resources; management of research equipment procurement; management of Federal medical research on aging; Federal air pollution research and development activities; and the "brain drain" of developing countries, whose scientists, engineers, and physicians moved to the United States. Records relating to investigations of various labs and projects are also included (89 GO.5, 89 GO.20A, 89 GO.21, 89 GO.22, 89 GO.23, 89.GO.24, 90 GO.11, 90 GO.12, 90 GO.20-24).

**11.118** Most of the records of the **Special Studies Subcommittee** (12 ft.) relate to agency accounting systems, lab equipment procurement, recreational boating safety, consumer affairs related activities, and certain activities of the Geological Survey and the Foreign Agriculture Service (90 GO.11, 90 GO.12).

**11.119** All of the records of the **Subcommittee on Reorganization of the House and Senate Committees on Government Operations** (2 in.) pertain to the creation of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (83A-F7.19).

**11.120** The records of the **Special Subcommittee on Government Information** (7 ft.) primarily relate to various issues concerning the creation, maintenance, and use of and access to Government information (85A-F7.23, 86A-F7.9, 87A-F6.7).

**11.121** Information pertaining to computers, the activities of commerical credit bureaus, the National Data Bank Concept, and privacy concerns are found in the records of the **Special Subcommittee on the Invasion of Privacy** (89 GO.5, 89 GO32, 90 GO.11, 90 GO.12, 11 in.).

**11.122** The records of the **Special Subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations and the Committee on Education and Labor** (7 in.) provide information on welfare funds and racketeering and Federal-State cooperation in the enforcement of anti-racketeering laws in the Detroit, MI and Kansas City, MO areas (83A-F7.13).

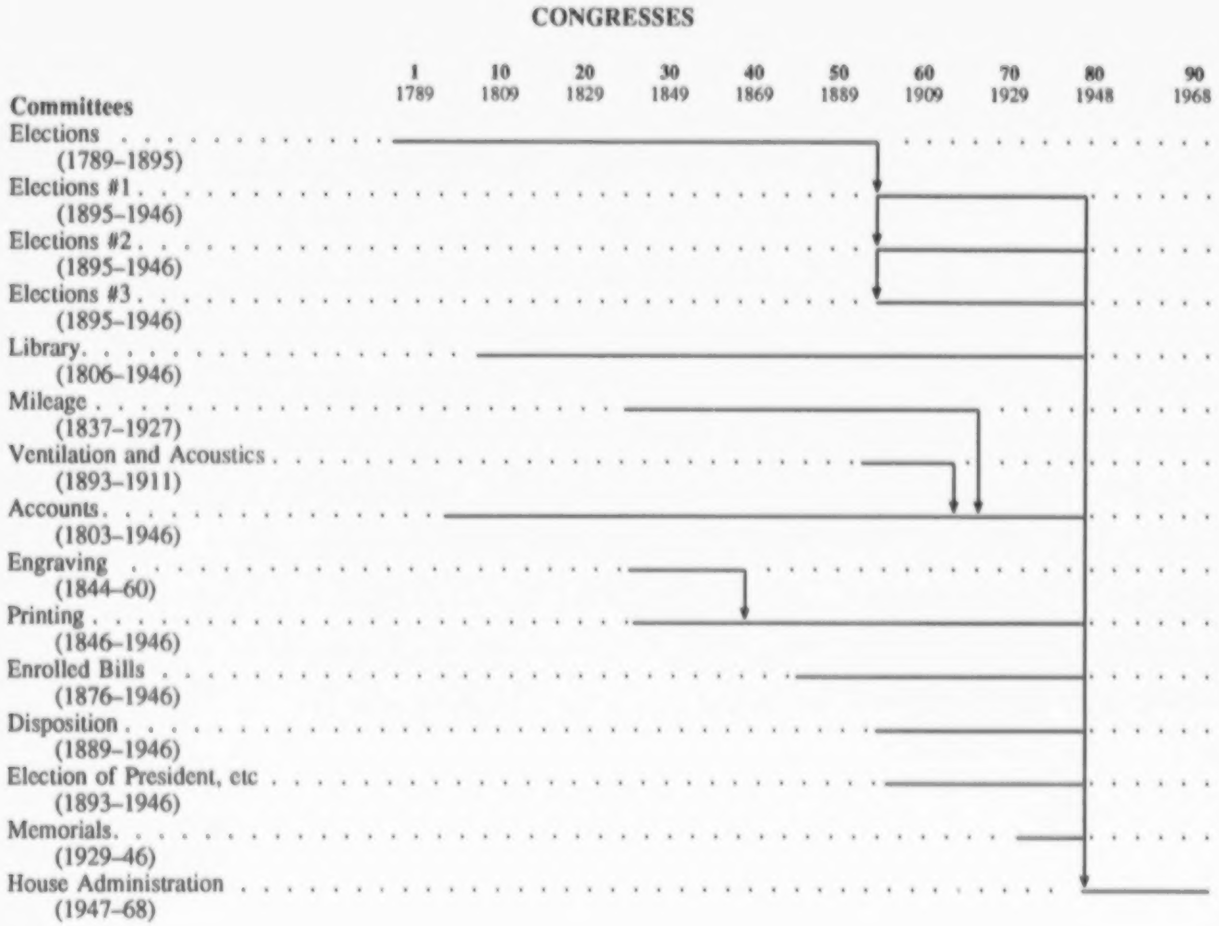
**11.123** During the 83d Congress the committee appointed numerous special subcommittees, including those on **Alaskan Housing** (83A-F7.2, 1 in.); **Amending the Corrupt Practices Act** (83A-F7.3, 1 in.); **Compliance** [of agency personnel with laws, regulations, directives] (83A-F7.4, 2 in.); **Disposal of Certain Industrial Properties** (83A-F7.5, 1 in.); **Fontana School of Aeronautics** (83A-F7.6, 2 in.); **German Consulate-American Housing Program** (83A-F7.7, 2 in.); **Government Contracts for Small Business** (83A-F7.8, 1 in.); **Housing Activities of the Government** (83A-F7.9, 4 in.); **Public Housing** (83A-F7.10, 2 ft.); and several **Special Subcommittees on Reorganization Plans** (83A-F7.11; 83A-F7.12, 1 in.).

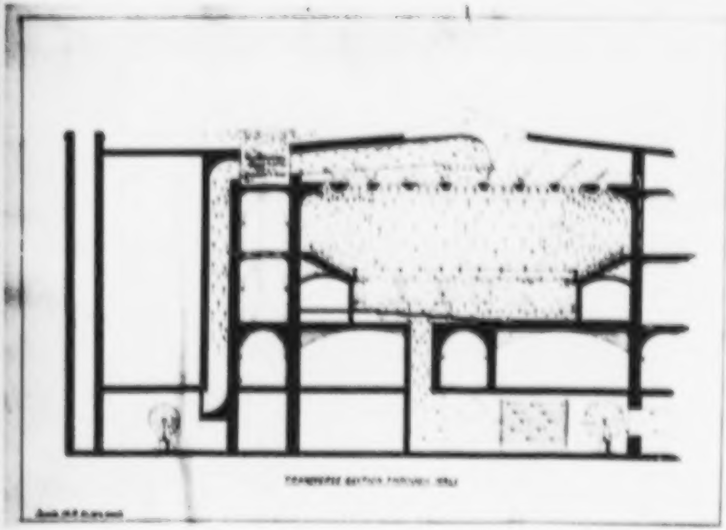
**11.124** During 86th and 87th Congresses there were several special subcommittees, including those on **Donable Property** (86A-F7.8, 87A-F6.6, 5 ft.); **Assigned Power and Land Problems** (86A-F7.7, 87A-F6.5, 3 ft.); **Home Loan Bank Board** (86A-F7.10, 87A-F6.8, 2 ft.); and **Reno Interstate Highway** (86A-F7.11, 10 in.).

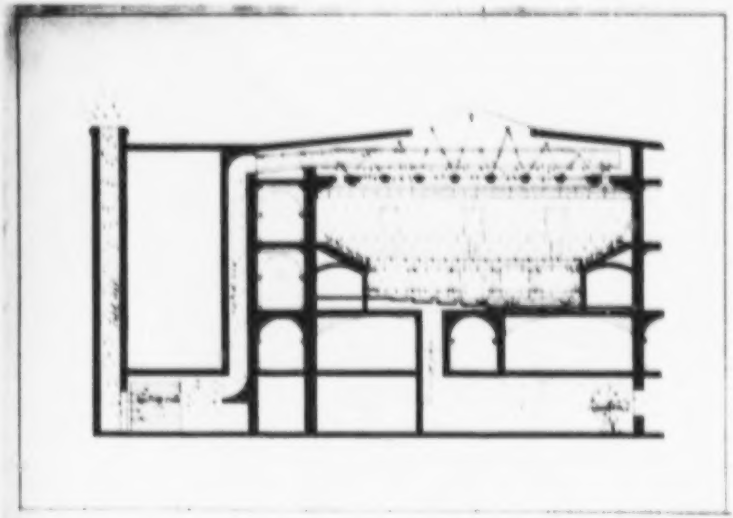
**11.125** The **bill files** contain records relating to a wide variety of subjects, many of which concern economy and efficiency of governmental operations. Researchers should be aware that records relating to specific legislation may be found in full committee bill files or in bill files generated by the subcommittee that reported the legislation. Occasionally bill files on a bill or resolution were kept at both the full committee and subcommittee levels.

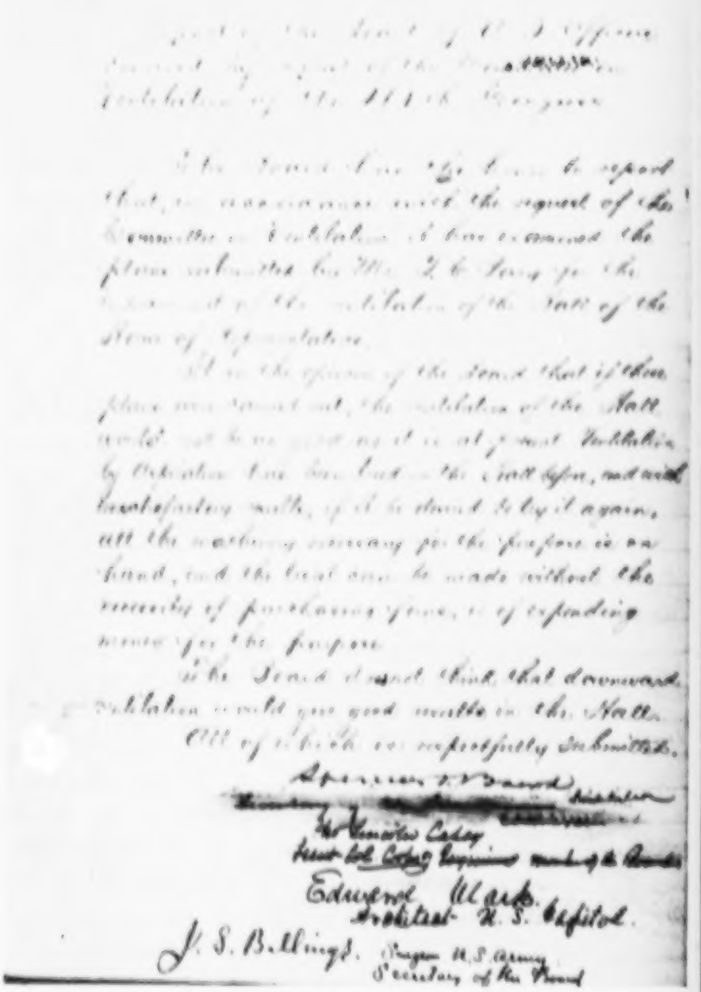
# Chapter 12

# RECORDS OF THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE AND ITS PREDECESSORS


CONGRESSES
1 1789
10 1809
20 1829
30 1849
40 1869
50 1889
60 1909
70 1929
80 1948
90 1968
Committees
Elections (1789–1895)
Elections #1 (1895–1946)
Elections #2 (1895–1946)
Elections #3 (1895–1946)
Library (1806–1946)
Mileage (1837–1927)
Ventilation and Acoustics (1893–1911)
Accounts (1803–1946)
Engraving (1844–60)
Printing (1846–1946)
Enrolled Bills (1876–1946)
Disposition (1889–1946)
Election of President, etc (1893–1946)
Memorials (1929–46)
House Administration (1947–68)







Report of the Board of U. S. Officers [illegible] by request of the [illegible] on Ventilation of the [illegible] Congress

The Board have the honor to report that, in accordance with the request of the Committee on Ventilation, it has examined the plans submitted by Mr. T. C. Perry for the improvement of the ventilation of the Hall of the House of Representatives.

It is the opinion of the Board that if these plans were carried out, the ventilation of the Hall would not be as good as it is at present. Ventilation by Aspiration has been tried in the Hall before, and with unsatisfactory results; if it be desired to try it again, all the machinery necessary for the purpose is on hand, and the trial can be made without the necessity of purchasing fans, or of expending money for the purpose.

The Board do not think that downward ventilation would give good results in the Hall.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

~~[illegible]~~

Bvt. Col. [illegible] Engineers member of the Board

Edward Clark.
Architect U. S. Capitol.

J. S. Billings. Surgeon U.S. Army
Secretary of the Board

***Legislators have always suffered from the oppressive heat and humidity of the Capital City. For over 30 years select and standing committees on ventilation and accoustics existed in the House but failed to alleviate the miserable working conditions. The mechanical drawings of T. C. Perry illustrate his proposal to install equipment to ventilate the Hall of the House with air flowing down from above rather than up through the floor. (48A-F46)***

# CHAPTER 12

# RECORDS OF THE HOUSE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE AND PREDECESSORS

***Introduction***

**12.1** The House Administration Committee was established in 1947 under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. It superseded ten standing committees, assuming the jurisdictions and functions of some of the oldest and longest standing committees of the House. This chapter discusses the records of the House Administration Committee and those of the committees whose functions it inherited.

**12.2** Although most of the committees had legislative jurisdictions, they all performed important administrative functions for the House. The Elections Committees (1789-1947) performed the constitutionally mandated function of judging the "elections, returns, and qualifications" of House Members. The Accounts Committee (1803-1947) approved, audited, and settled the accounts of the contingent fund of the House. The Mileage Committee (1837-1927) ascertained the mileage traveled by Members to Congress for the purpose of remuneration. The Ventilation and Acoustics Committee (1893-1911) studied and reported legislation relating to the uncomfortable and unhealthy conditions in the chamber in which the House met, and the Memorials Committee (1929-47) made arrangements for a memorial day for Members who had died recently. The Committee on the Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress had jurisdiction over Federal elections including the actual counting of the electoral vote in the Senate and House.

**12.3** The Committee on Enrolled Bills (1876-1947), successor to the Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills (1789-1876), was charged with assuring that identically worded legislation was passed by the House and Senate, and that correctly enrolled bills arrived at the White House ready for the President's signature. The Committee on Engraving (1844-60) monitored the engraving and printing of maps for Congress, a function that was later performed by the Printing Committee (1846-1947), which reported legislation controlling all publication by Congress. The Library Committee (1806-1947) managed the affairs of the Library of Congress, the funding of memorial projects, and all subjects relating to art and aesthetics. The Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers (1889-1947) approved the disposition of governmental records.

**12.4** The records of the Committees on the Library, on Printing, and on the Disposition of Executive Papers present unique research problems. Each of these committees consisted of the House Members of a joint committee. The joint committees were created by statute, and the House membership of each was recognized by House Rules as a standing committee. The Senate membership comprised a standing committee in the Senate. For the most part, the House and Senate standing committees performed legislative functions, while the two portions acting together—the joint committee—performed administrative functions.

**12.5** To further complicate research in the records of these committees, the House and Senate portions of the joint committees each preserved its own records. There are, for instance, four sets of Library Committee records: records of a House standing committee (RG 233), records of a Senate standing committee (RG 46), records of the House Joint Committee (RG 128), and records of the Senate Joint Committee (RG 128).

**12.6** The functions and jurisdictions of all of the above House committees were incorporated into the House Administration Committee under the 1946 Reorganization Act.

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## Committee on Elections (1789-1895) Committees #1, #2 and #3 on Elections (1895-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.7** Article 1, section 5, of the Constitution of the United States specifies: "Each House shall be the Judge of the Elections, Returns, and Qualifications of its own Members." The Committee on Elections was established as the first standing committee of the House to perform this function on April 13, 1789, just two weeks after the first quorum allowed the House of Representatives to organize itself. Rule number 7 of the first rules adopted by the House of Representatives specifies the character and jurisdiction of the committee:

> 7. A standing Committee on Elections shall be appointed, to consist of seven members, it shall be the duty of the said committee to examine and report upon the certificates of election, or other credentials of the members returned to serve in this House, and to take into their consideration all such matters as shall or may come in question, and be referred to them by the House, touching returns and elections, and to report their proceedings, with their opinion thereupon, to the House.[1]

**12.8** From 1789 until the mid-19th century the number of contested election cases remained stable at an average of three per Congress. After the 34th Congress (1855-57) the number of contested seats rose sporadically to a peak of 38 during the 54th Congress (1895-97). In 1895, due to the increase in workload, the committee was split into three separate committees: Elections #1, Elections #2, and Elections #3. After 1935 the number of contested elections returned to an average of three per Congress, and in 1947 the three Elections Committees were abolished and their jurisdiction included in that of the new House Administration Committee.

*Records of the four committees on Elections, 1st-79th Congresses (1789-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 38 vol. | 1845-51, 1855-69<br>1871-83, 1887-91<br>1893-1913, 1919-41 | 29th-31st, 34th-40th<br>42d-47th, 50th-51th<br>53d-62d, 66th-76th |
| Docket Books | 20 vol. | 1881-83, 1887-99<br>1903-13 1919-23 | 47th, 50th-55th<br>58th-62d, 66th-67th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 7 in. | 1805-07, 1809-11<br>1821-23, 1841-47<br>1849-61, 1863-67<br>1875-77, 1881-83<br>1893-97, 1919-21 | 9th, 11th<br>17th, 27th-29th<br>31st-36th, 38th-39th<br>44th, 47th<br>53d-54th, 66th |
| Comm. Papers | 274 ft. | 1793-99, 1803-05<br>1807-51, 1853-1946 | 3d-5th, 8th<br>10th-31st, 33d-79th |
| Bill Files | 1 in. | 1921-25, 1929-31<br>1935-36 | 67th-68th, 71st<br>74th |

TOTAL: 274 ft., 8 in. and 58 volumes (5 ft.)

**12.9** The **minute books** provide documentation of the dates, attendance, and business conducted, at committee meetings. Several of the early minute volumes contain the minutes of several Congresses—the minute book for the 34th through 39th Congresses (1856-67), and the minute book for the 42d through 45th Congresses (1871-79), each contain over 300 handwritten pages. The **docket books** record the receipt of petitions, memorials, bills, resolutions, and various other papers. After 1895 when the single Elections Committee was split into three Elections Committees, there are separate minute and docket books for each of the committees.

**12.10** The **petitions and memorials** relate primarily to the initiation of contested election cases, but they also include such documents as the credentials of election of delegates from New Mexico Territory and Deseret for 1849-51 (31A-G5), a large roll petition from citizens of California in 1857 demanding the expulsion of P.T. Herbert (34A-G5), and an appeal from citizens of South Carolina for a speedy decision on a contested seat for 1895-97 (54A-H10). Other petitions and memorials referred to the committee may be found in the committee papers files, as well as the petition and memorial files listed on the table above.

**12.11** **Committee papers**, consisting primarily of evidence submitted in contested election cases, constitute the bulk of the documentation. Many of the case files, especially from the early Congresses, consist of an inch or less of loose papers. After the mid-19th century, as the number of cases increased, the volume of material submitted as evidence also increased. This is reflected in the records of the period; for example, the 22 contest cases preserved from the 55th Congress (36 ft.) include over 7 feet on the case of *Thorne* v. *Epes* alone. The volume of records increases over time: 1st-40th Congresses (1789-1869), 8 ft.; 41st-53d Congresses (1869-1895), 57 ft.; 54th-79th Congresses (1896-1946), 209 ft.

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[1] *Annals of the Congress of the United States*, 1st Cong., 1st sess., April 13, 1789, p. 122.

**12.12** The *Preliminary Inventory to the Records of the House of Representatives, 1798-1946*, contains a detailed list of the records of case files from each Congress that are held by National Archives.

## Committee on the Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress (1893-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.13** The standing Committee on the Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress was established in 1893 with jurisdiction over legislation concerning the election of the officials enumerated in its title, including proposed changes to the Constitution that affected the terms of office of the named officials, the succession to the offices of the President and Vice President, the direct election of Senators, and the meeting times of Congress. The committee considered national election laws and their enforcement, including such topics as the disqualification of polygamists from election to Congress, the use of electric voting machines in congressional elections, the necessary and proper expenses related to nominations and elections, and the publication of campaign expenses. It was responsible for changes in the law regarding the electoral count and resolutions regulating the actual electoral vote count by the Senate and House of Representatives.

***Records of the Committee on Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress, 53d-79th Congresses (1893-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 17 vol. | 1893-95, 1903-33 | 53d, 58th-72d |
| Docket Books | 11 vol. | 1893-95, 1897-1901<br>1903-17, 1931-33 | 53d, 55th-56th<br>58th-64th, 72d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 ft. | 1893-97, 1988-1909<br>1923-25, 1929-31<br>1943-44 | 53d-54th, 56th-60th<br>68th, 71st<br>78th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft | 1893-1933, 1935-41<br>1943-46 | 53d-72d, 74th-76th<br>78th-79th |
| Bill Files | 1 ft. | 1903-07, 1921-31<br>1933-36, 1939-46 | 58th-59th, 67th-71st<br>73d-74th, 76th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 5 ft. and 28 vols. (2 ft.) | | |

**12.14** **Minute books** from most of the period between the formation of the committee and 1933 document meetings of the committee, referrals to subcommittees and activity regarding legislation. The minutes indicate that the committee met infrequently and dealt with a limited number of issues when it did meet. The **docket books** record petitions, memorials, bills, resolutions, and other papers that were referred to the committee. A survey of the minute and docket books provides an idea of the subjects that were referred to the committee, such as the direct election of senators and woman suffrage.

**12.15** **Petition and memorial** files are not extensive, with the exception of the 1943-44 file, which contains over 7 inches of petitions on wartime voting (78A-H4). The most frequent subject of petitions during the early years of the committee (1893-1909) was the direct election of Senators. The petition file for 1907-08 includes the resolutions of the legislatures of 11 individual states and a Joint Resolution from 27 States calling for a convention to amend the Constitution respecting the direct election of Senators (60A-H8).

**12.16** The only large accumulation of **committee papers** concerns absentee balloting by servicemen (78A-F9) during the United States involvement in World War II. The **committee papers** contain printed bills, resolutions, reports, hearings, and correspondence. Several unpublished transcripts of hearings are included concerning such subjects as campaign contributions (60A-F9); a four-year term for Representatives (63A-F7); and a constitutional amendment regarding nomination and election procedures (67A-D7).

**12.17** After the 57th Congress legislative **bill files** are separate from the committee papers. The bill files are not extensive, although the 1943-44 files are swollen by material on wartime voting legislation (78A-D8).

### *Related Records*

**12.18** Before the establishment of the standing committee election issues were dealt with by select committees appointed to handle particular situations or legislation. There are records for select committees on:

- Privileges, Powers and Duties of Congress in Electoral Vote Counting, 1875-77 (44A-F39.2)
- Recent Elections in Florida, 1875-77 (44A-F39.4)
- Alleged Frauds in the Late Presidential Election, 1877-79 (45A-F37.1)
- Law Respecting the Election of the President and Vice President, 1883-85 (48A-F44.1)
- Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress, 1885-93 (49A-F39, 50A-F41, 51A-F44, 52A-F48)

## Committee on Enrolled Bills (1876-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.19** The House standing Committee on Enrolled Bills was a result of the dissolution of the old Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills. The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills was established on July 27, 1789, with the responsibility for the enrollment of engrossed bills. The enacting resolution states the following:

> After a bill shall have passed both Houses, it shall be duly enrolled on Parchment by the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate, as the bill may have originated in one or the other House, before it shall be presented to the President of the United States. . . . When bills are enrolled they shall be examined by a joint committee for that purpose, who shall carefully compare the enrollment with the engrossed bills as passed in the two Houses, and, correcting any errors that may be discovered in the enrolled bills, make their report forthwith to their respective Houses.[2]

**12.20** In 1876 the joint rules of Congress were allowed to lapse, and although the committee continued to be referred to as a "joint committee," it consisted thereafter of a separate committee in each house, each supervising the enrolling of bills originated in its own house. Under the Reorganization Act of 1946 the functions of the Committee on Enrolled Bills were incorporated into those of the House Administration Committee. The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills has since that date been composed of three members from the House Administration Committee and three members from the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

### *Records of the Committee on Enrolled Bills, 44th-79th Congresses (1876-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rec./Enroll. | 38 vols. | 1883-1901, 1911-46 | 48th-56th, 64th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1909-11, 1915-19<br>1923-46 | 61st, 64th-65th<br>68th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 3 ft. and 38 vols. (6 ft.) | | |

**12.21** The **Record or Enrollment** books kept by the committee list all House and Senate bills and resolutions and the date of the completion of each step in the enrollment process for each piece of legislation.

**12.22** The **committee papers** contain White House receipts for enrolled bills delivered to the President, certificates of enrollment, lists of bills signed by the President, Secretary of the Senate signature receipts, and copies of the President's memoranda of disapproval.

### *Related Records*

**12.23** The Enrolled Bills that became law, with the signatures of the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and the President of the United States, are in Enrolled Acts and Resolutions of Congress, 1789-1986 (195 ft.) in the General Records of the Department of State, RG 59.

## Committee on the Library (1806-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.24** The standing Committee on the Library was composed of the House members of the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. Its jurisdiction included all legislation or matters touching on the Library of Congress, and statuary, pictures or works of art on the Capitol grounds.

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[2] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States,* 1st Cong., 1st sess., July 27, 1789, p. 67.

### *Records of the Committee on the Library, 9th-79th Congresses (1806-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 22 vol | 1887-97, 1899-1923 | 50th-54th, 56th-67th |
| | | 1927-42 | 70th-77th |
| Docket Books | 18 vol | 1885-1915, 1919-25 | 48th-63d, 65th-68th |
| Pet. & Mem | 2 ft | 1863-65, 1871-73 | 38th, 42d |
| | | 1883-89, 1891-99 | 48th-50th, 52d-55th |
| | | 1903-23, 1925-31 | 58th-67th, 69th-71st |
| | | 1933-46 | 73d-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 8 ft | 1819-21, 1825-27 | 17th, 19th |
| | | 1857-59, 1883-1946 | 35th, 48th-79th |
| Bill Files | 12 ft | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |

TOTAL: 22 ft. and 40 vols. (3 ft.)

**12.25** The **minute books** that have been preserved for almost every Congress between 1887 and 1947 often contain only partial minutes. In most cases the **docket books** were kept more meticulously and provide more information regarding committee activity relating to specific legislation.

**12.26** Although this committee usually was not the recipient of many **petitions and memorials**, particular subjects occasionally drew relatively large numbers. Examples are the 1895-97 question of whether a statue of Pere Jacques Marquette, a French Jesuit, should be kept in Statuary Hall (54A-H18); the designation of a "day of National Prayer and Humiliation," 1917-19 (65A-H9); and the construction of a memorial to Franklin Roosevelt, 1945-46 (79A-F23).

**12.27** **Committee papers** contain correspondence, documents submitted to the committee, reports of commissions and other bodies, and original reports of the committee. The committee papers before the 58th Congress generally contain less than 1 inch of records per Congress, much of which is related to bills and resolutions pending before the House. The file from 1887-89 (50A-F20) provides a representative sample of subjects: correspondence related to the purchase of Indian paintings by John Mix Stanley; the purchase of Erastus Thatcher's manuscript "History" of the District of Columbia; the preservation of the Confederate archives; the location of a new Library of Congress building; the purchase of several portraits; the erection of monuments and memorial bridges at various locations in the United States; the incorporation of the National Historical Society; the priority of the invention of the telegraph machine; the exchange of congressional documents with Canada and Chile; and resolutions of the Joint Commission on the Completion of the Washington Monument. After the 57th Congress "Papers Accompanying Specific Bills and Resolutions" or "**bill files**" are filed separately.

**12.28** The volume of the committee papers increases significantly after the turn of the century. For this period there are records relating to: memorials; grave sites; portraits and paintings; the designation of a national flower and of a national anthem; the purchases of the tomb of George Washington (67A-F26) and of Monticello (67A-F26); monuments to the women of the Civil War (64A-D12); and funding proposals for various documentary publications (19A-D11, 61A-F31). Also included are large files for a 1930 bill authorizing the purchase of the Vollbehr Collection of Incunabula for the Library of Congress (71A-D18); a 1933-34 study of botanic gardens in the United States and other countries (73A-F18); and a 1937-38 report prepared for the commemoration of the DeSoto expedition of 1539 (75A-F24). The records also contain bills, resolutions and correspondence proposing recognition of persons of national importance such as George M. Cohan (73A-D19), Samuel Wilson, better known as "Uncle Sam" (71A-F24), Charles V. Gridley (55A-F21.2), and John Gray, the last surviving Revolutionary War veteran (50A-F20).

### *Related Records*

**12.29** Although the Library Committee functioned as a standing committee of the House, its members also served as members of the Joint Committee on the Library. Records of the Joint Committee on the Library (see Chapter 23) are arranged in two parallel collections: a House collection and a Senate collection. The Joint Committee records are not distributed between the two collections in a systematic way, and in the period between 1823 and 1851 (18th-31st Congresses) they are found in both collections. The records of the Joint Committee for recent Congresses have been in the custody of the Committee on House Administration.

## Committee on Accounts (1803-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.30** The Committee on Accounts was created on December 27, 1803, and was made a standing committee in 1805. Its jurisdiction covered all subjects "touching the expenditure of the contingent fund of the House, [and] the auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged therein to the House." In addition, the committee was responsible for the accountability of officers of the House, the procurement of rooms for the use of House committees and for the Speaker, and for recommending and authorizing the employment of such persons as stenographers, reporters of debates, janitors, and clerks and staff assistants for committees, members and senators. In 1911 the functions of the Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics were transferred to the Committee on Accounts, and in 1927 the functions of the Committee on Mileage were similarly transferred.

### *Records of the Committee on Accounts, 8th-79th Congresses (1803-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 17 vol. | 1841-55, 1857-67 | 27th-33d, 35th-39th |
| | | 1869-1909, 1941-46 | 41st-60th, 77th-79th |
| Docket Books | 8 vol. | 1883-87, 1889-1901 | 48th-49th, 51st-56th |
| Other Bd. Vols. | 15 vol. | 1805-41, 1867-69 | 9th-27th, 40th |
| | | 1875-93, 1895-1901 | 44th-52d, 54th-56th |
| | | 1905-11 | 59th-61st |
| | | 1881-1901, 1905-11 | 47th-56th, 59th-61st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 in. | 1807-09, 1819-21 | 10th, 16th |
| | | 1827-29, 1831-33 | 20th, 22d |
| | | 1841-45, 1849-51 | 27th-28th, 31st |
| | | 1853-55, 1877-87 | 33d, 45th-49th |
| Comm. Papers | 51 in. | 1809-13, 1815-23 | 11th-12th, 14th-17th |
| | | 1825-29, 1831-33 | 19th-20th, 22d |
| | | 1835-1911, 1937-38 | 24th-61st, 75th |
| | | 1941-42, 1945-46 | 77th, 79th |
| Bill Files | 12 in. | 1935-46 | 74th-79th |

TOTAL: 5 ft. 7 in. and 40 vols. (3 ft., 4 in.)

**12.31 Minutes** of committee meetings record topics of discussion and resolutions approving expenditures, authorizing payment of accounts, or initiating investigations or studies. Other bound volumes designated as Accounts Audited, Contingent Fund, Day Book, Ledger of Expenses of Committees, or Statement of Accounts, were used variously by the committee in the discharge of its duties. These volumes record committee action on expenditures from the contingent fund accounts and may have entries arranged by date, by committee or office, or by the docket order in which the committee reviewed them

**12.32** Committee papers, petitions and memorials, and bill files (papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions) are sparse for this committee. For most Congresses the papers consist primarily of House resolutions requesting approval of proposed expenditures, or resolutions requesting that the Accounts Committee conduct an investigation.

**12.33 Petitions and memorials** referred to the committee generally are from employees of the House asking for payment for services rendered, such as the petition of Charles Shirley asking for payment as messenger in the south wing of the Capitol between 1856 and 1857 (38A-G1).

**12.34** More than half the total volume of **committee papers** are from the 1943-46 period (78A-F1, 79A-F1) and consist of files of correspondence between the committee and other committees and officers of the House. There is a similar file (40A-F1) containing the 1877-79 committee correspondence. Other significant records concern an 1869-71 investigation of malfeasance of the Sergeant at Arms (40A-F1) and records and hearings from an 1875-77 investigation of procedures in the House folding room (44A-F1).

**12.35** The records of the committee are closely related to those of the Clerk of the House, whose expenditures from the contingent fund the committee audited. Bound volumes from the Office of the Clerk, variously titled Clerk's Account Book, Clerk's Ledger, Clerk's Day Book, Disbursements of the Clerk, Contingent Account, Newspaper Accounts, Stationary Accounts, and Contingent Expenditures, contain records of the itemized expenditures from the contingent fund. These appear irregularly, generally, 2 to 4 volumes per Congress. Much of the material from the Office of the Clerk is published in the *Congressional Serial Set.*

## Committee on Mileage (1837-1927)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.36** The jurisdiction of the Committee on Mileage is described in Rule XI: "The ascertaining of the travel of Members of the House shall be made by the Committee on Mileage and reported to the Sergeant at Arms." The committee was an outgrowth of the Committee on Accounts which originally was charged with the audit of Members' mileage. In 1927 the Committee on Mileage was discontinued and these duties were returned to the Accounts Committee.

**12.37** In addition to determining the travel expenses of Members, the committee reported on bills, resolutions, and petitions and memorials related to this subject.

*Records of the Committee on Mileage, 25th-69th Congresses (1837-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comm. Papers | 1 in. | 1839-41, 2843-45<br>1847-49, 1855-57<br>1871-75, 1909-11<br>1921-23 | 26th, 28th<br>30th, 34th<br>42d-43d, 61st<br>67th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1847-49, 1855-57 | 30th, 34th |
| TOTAL: | 2 in. | | |

**12.38** The records of the committee include **petitions** from groups of citizens praying that the per diem and travel expenses of Members be reduced, and resolutions to devise better methods of calculating mileage.

*Related Records*

**12.39** Other records of the committee, volumes titled "Pay & Mileage of Representatives" (14 ft.) from the 13th Congress to the 50th Congress (1813-1889) are preserved in the Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury, RG 217. They may have been transferred to the Office of the First Auditor for review.

## Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics (1893-1911)

*History and Jurisdiction*

**12.40** The standing Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics was established to have jurisdiction over subjects related to the ventilation and acoustics of the Hall of the House of Representatives. The ventilation and acoustics of the House Chamber had been known to be unsatisfactory from 1857 when the chamber was first occupied. Before the establishment of the standing committee, numerous select committees were named to study the problem and suggest solutions. In 1911 the committee was abolished and the subjects in its jurisdiction were included in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Accounts.

*Records of the Committee on Ventilation and Acoustics, 53d-61st Congresses (1893-1911) and predecessor select committees.*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 1 vol. | 1877-79, 1891-93 | 45th, 52d |
| Docket Books | 1 vol. | 1891-93 | 52d |
| Comm. Papers | 2 in. | 1883-85, 1891-95 | 48th, 52d-53d |
| TOTAL: | 2 in. and 2 vols. (2 in.) | | |

**12.41** Although special, joint, and standing committees on ventilation and acoustics had existed almost continuously for 50 years, only two inches of unpublished records have been preserved. The **minute and docket** volumes contain little documentation. **Committee papers** from the select committee from 1881-83 contain correspondence, drafts of reports, brochures and blueprints for ventilating machines, and drawings of the ventilation system of the House (48A-F46). The committee papers from the standing committee from 1893-95 contain correspondence and drawings of inventions and proposals to alleviate the ventilation problems in the House Hall, as well as a number of letters enumerating the personnel employed in the Capitol, and a critical appraisal of the staff of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol (53A-F45).

## Committee on Memorials (1929-46)

*History and Jurisdiction*

**12.42** The Committee on Memorials was established to make arrangements for the observance of a memorial day by the House of Representatives in memory of the Members of the House and Senate who had died during the preceding session, and to arrange for the publication of the proceedings thereof. Before the establishment of the committee it was the custom to hold a separate memorial service in honor of each Member who died during the session or the recess preceding it.

**12.43** The records generated by the committee consist of printed collections of memorial messages in the *Congressional Serial Set.*

## Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers (1889-1947)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.44** The Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers was established on Feb. 16, 1889, by "An Act to authorize and provide for the disposition of useless papers in the Executive Departments." The act provided that whenever an executive department accumulated files of papers that were not needed for the transaction of current business and possessed no permanent value or historical interest, the head of the agency would submit a report to Congress with a concise statement of the character and condition of such papers. The presiding officer of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives would, upon receipt of the report, each appoint two Members to sit on a joint committee to meet and examine the reports and papers, and report on them. If the report of the joint committee agreed that the papers were useless, the head of the Department would be ordered to sell them as wastepaper or otherwise dispose of them.

**12.45** As the disposition process became institutionalized a Select Committee on the Disposition of (Useless) Executive Papers was regularly appointed at the beginning of each Congress. In 1911 it was recognized as a standing committee in the revised Rules of the House. Under the 1934 National Archives Act the Archivist of the United States was given responsibility for governmental records and archives and was required to submit the disposition lists formerly submitted by the agencies.

**12.46** In addition, the committee occasionally held hearings and reported bills relating to governmental recordkeeping and archives. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the two House Members on the Joint Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers were selected from the membership of the House Administration Committee.

*Records of the Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers, 51st-79th Congresses (1889-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comm. Papers | 2 in. | 1937-41 | 75th-76th |
| Bill Files | 2 in. | 1935-41 | 74th-76th |

TOTAL: 4 in. and 1 vol. (1 in.)

**12.47** The **committee papers** and **bill files** of the standing House committee consist of printed copies of bills, hearings and reports. Most of the records related to congressional action on the disposition of executive papers are found in the records of the joint committee.

### *Related Records*

**12.48** In addition to the records of the standing committee, there are records of the Joint Committee on the Disposition of Executive Papers (see Chapter 23). The records of the joint committee are arranged in two groups, a House collection and a Senate collection. They contain reports from executive agencies and the National Archives that were submitted to the committee for review. These agency reports contain detailed descriptions of the records which are summarized in the printed joint committee reports. The **House joint committee** collection (7 ft.) contains records for the period between 1889 and 1946. The **Senate joint committee** collection (9 ft.) contains scattered records from 1893 through 1964.

## Committee on Engraving (1844-60)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.49** A select committee on engraving was established on January 11, 1844 to examine abuses in the engraving, lithographing, and printing of maps ordered by the 26th and 27th Congresses. On March 16th, after investigating the abuses, and finding substantial overcharges by "men who subsist and fatten on the national treasury," Mr. Samuel Simons of the select committee submitted the following resolution which established the standing committee:

> That there should be appointed a standing committee, of this House, to consist of three members, to be called the Committee on Engraving, to whom shall be referred by the Clerk, all drawings, maps, charts, and other papers,

> which may, at any time, come before the House for engraving, lithographing, or publishing in any way; which committee shall report to the House whether the same ought, in their opinion be published; and if the House order the publication of the same, the said committee shall direct the size and manner of execution of all such maps, charts, drawings, or other papers, and to contract by agreement, in writing, for all such engraving, lithographing, printing, drawing, and coloring as may be ordered by the House.[8]

**12.50** The standing committee continued for fifteen years until it was discontinued and its jurisdiction taken by the Joint Committee on Printing.

*Records of the Committee on Engraving, 28th-36th Congresses (1844-60)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Comm. Papers | 1 in. | 1843-45, 1847-49 | 28th, 30th |
| TOTAL: | 1 in. | | |

**12.51** The records consist of original manuscript copies of H.Rpt. 179, 28th Cong., 2d sess., and H.Rpt. 390, 30th Cong., 1st sess.

## Committee on Printing (1846-1947)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.52** *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives* describes the Printing Committee in the following way, "While in fact a joint committee, the House branch acts also as a standing committee of the House, receiving resolutions and bills which are referred to it and reporting them by its own authority, without the concurrent action of the Senate branch." The Joint Committee on Printing established in 1846 has continued until the present date. The House branch acting as a standing committee continued until 1947 when it was incorporated into the House Administration Committee. House Members of the Joint Committee have been selected from the membership of the House Administration Committee since 1947.

**12.53** The jurisdiction of the Committee on Printing included all proposed legislation or orders touching on printing. In practice this included the general supervision of the printing, management, and policies of the Government Printing Office (GPO) and occasionally the pay of its employees; the letting of contracts; procurement of suitable paper; control of the arrangement, style, bulk, and indexing of the *Congressional Record*; and supervision of the printing of the *Congressional Directory*. The committee reported bills and resolutions regarding the printing, binding, and distribution of public documents, including the annual reports of executive agencies, bureaus, and commissions; messages of the President; special scientific studies and reports; public health reports and statements; historical documentary publications such as the *Territorial Papers of the United States*; and hearings of congressional committees.

*Records of the Committee on Printing, 29th-79th Congresses (1846-1947)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 11 vol. | 1887-97, 1899-1903<br>1915-19, 1921-33<br>1937-38 | 50th-54th, 56th-57th<br>64th-65th, 67th-72d<br>75th |
| Docket Books | 12 vol. | 1887-91, 1895-1903<br>1915-31 | 50th-51st, 54th-57th<br>64th-71st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 ft. | 1849-55, 1857-59<br>1861-65, 1873-77<br>1879-85, 1889-1901<br>1921-25, 1933-34<br>1939-41, 1945-45 | 31st-33d, 35th<br>37th-38th, 43d-44th<br>46th-48th, 51st-56th<br>67th-68th, 73d<br>76th, 79th |
| Comm. Papers | 6 ft. | 1851-53, 1855-59<br>1875-77, 1879-81<br>1883-1903, 1915-17<br>1919-42, 1945-46 | 32d, 34th-35th<br>44th, 46th<br>48th-57th, 64th<br>66th-77th, 79th |
| Bill Files | 3 ft. | 1905-09, 1915-17<br>1919-33, 1935-46 | 59th-60th, 64th<br>66th-72d, 74th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 10 ft. and 23 vols. (2 ft.) | | |

**12.54** The **minute books** generally contain brief entries documenting the business acted on by the small (three-member) committee. The **docket books** usually contain a more detailed accounting of the bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, and other documents referred to the committee, and the associated committee activity. The docket books record resolutions providing for the printing, binding, and distribution of documents such as the *Congressional Record*, additional copies of House and Senate committee reports and documents, and special projects such as the *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1902*, which was prepared by James D. Richardson, chairman of the House Printing Committee.

**12.55** The **petition and memorial** files for this committee are not extensive. Most of the petitions are from the 19th century. They include prayers from printers seeking contracts for the printing of Congress or asking that Congress purchase copies of their publications; memorials of printers and printing unions wishing to influence public printing policy; and citizens praying for increased distribution of congressional documents such as mailing the *Congressional Globe* to every family (46A-H20), or for the preservation and publication of specific documents, such as the papers of the Continental Congress (54A-H27.1) or the records of the Civil War (51A-H18.2).

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[8] *Congressional Globe*, 28th Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 16, 1844, p. 402.

**12.56** **Committee papers** prior to the 56th Congress (2 ft.) consist primarily of correspondence related to specific bills and resolutions. The subjects included are similar to those of the petitions.

**12.57** After 1903 there are records designated as **bill files**, and as **committee papers**, but there is no clear distinction between the records in the two series: both contain files arranged by bill or resolution number, and contain correspondence related to the legislation. These records document the evolution of public printing and distribution policy, and the individuals and groups who expressed interest in specific publication policies and projects. Among the records are numerous resolutions providing for the printing of documents such as Thomas Jefferson's "Morals of Jesus of Nazareth," numerous U.S. Department of Agriculture publications such as *The Woodsman's Handbook*, and the annual and special reports of the executive agencies. Other records found in the committee papers include transcripts of 1875-77 committee hearings on the cost of GPO work (44A-F27), and 1899-1901 hearings on the pay of laborers at GPO, and the Daniel process of map-making (56A-F31).

### *Related Records*

**12.58** The records of the Joint Committee on Printing (see Chapter 23) are preserved in two "collections" and contain material that is related to that of the House standing committee. The joint committee files before 1845 (29th Cong.) are from temporary joint committees established before the creation of the standing Joint Committee in 1846. The House collection of records of the Joint Printing Committee contains files from 1847 through 1942 with gaps. The Senate collection of Joint Committee on Printing records contains scattered files from 1789 through 1958.

## House Administration Committee, 1947-1968

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**12.59** The House Administration Committee was created on January 2, 1947, under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. The new committee merged the functions and jurisdictions of the Committees on Accounts; Enrolled Bills; Memorials; Election of the President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress; the Library; Printing; Disposition of Executive Papers; and the three committees on elections. Its jurisdiction included all legislation, messages, petitions, memorials, and other material relating to the following subjects:

> Appropriations from the contingent fund; (b) auditing and settling of all accounts which may be charged to the contingent fund; (c) employment of persons by the House, including clerks for Members and committees, and reporters of debates; (d) except as provided in clause 15 (d), matters relating to the Library of Congress and the House Library, statuary and pictures, acceptance or purchase of works of art for the Capitol, the Botanic Gardens, management of the Library of Congress, purchase of books and manuscripts, erection of monuments to the memory of individuals; (e) except as provided in clause 15 (d), matters relating to the Smithsonian Institution and the incorporation of similar institutions; (f) expenditure of contingent fund of the House; (g) matters relating to printing and correction of the Congressional Record; (h) measures relating to accounts of the House generally; (i) measures relating to assignment of office space for Members and committees; (j) measures relating to the disposition of useless executive papers; (k) measures relating to the election of the President, Vice President, or Members of Congress, corrupt practices, contested elections, credentials and qualifications, and Federal elections generally; (l) measures relating to services to the House, including the House Restaurant and administration of the House Office Buildings and of the House wing of the Capitol; (m) measures relating to the travel of Members of the House; (n) such committee shall also have the duty of: 1) arranging a suitable program for each day observed by the House of Representatives as a memorial day in memory of Members of the Senate or House of Representatives who have died during the preceding period, and to arrange for the publication of the proceedings thereof; 2) examining all bills, amendments, and joint resolutions. . . to see that they are correctly enrolled . . . and present the same, when they shall have originated in the House, to the President. . . and report the fact and date of such presentation to the House; 3) reporting to the Sergeant at Arms of the House the travel of Members of the House.[4]

**12.60** This complex jurisdiction is reflected in the subcommittee structure and the joint committee seats designated for members of the committee. Between

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[4] U.S. Congress, House *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, 90th Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 339.

1947 and 1968 the standing subcommittees and joint committees shown below retained basically the same structure, although there were slight jurisdictional and name changes, and several special subcommittees were established temporarily. The basic committee structure was:

| | |
|---|---|
| Subcommittees: | Accounts<br>Elections<br>Printing<br>Enrolled Bills, Library, Disposition of Executive Papers, and Memorials |
| Joint Committees: | Disposition of Executive Papers<br>Library<br>Printing |

**12.61** The records of the full committee and each of the standing subcommittees for each Congress, are arranged by Congress and thereunder by organizational unit and record type. The various types of files or series of files described below appear regularly in the records of the full committee or subcommittee for each Congress. The footage figures given in the table below are cumulative.

***Records of the Committee on House Administration, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-1968)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute | 3 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 ft. | 1953-54, 1957-58<br>1963-68 | 83d, 85th<br>88th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 331 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 42 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 378 ft. | | |

**12.62** The records are arranged by Congress and thereunder by organizational unit—full committee, subcommittees—and thereunder by record type. The records of the full committee (63 ft.) for each Congress include **bill files** arranged by subcommittee of referral, which consist of copies of the printed bills, reports, and Public (slip) Laws; and **committee papers** generally consisting of a reading file of outgoing correspondence, and a small alphabetical administrative subject file. The **minutes** of full committee meetings may be filed under "M" in the administrative subject file. Executive communications may be retained among the records of the full committee or they may be among those of the subcommittee to which they were referred.

**12.63** The records of the **Subcommittee on Accounts** (185 ft.) consist of accounting documents, vouchers, detailed lists of disbursements, and bills for telephone and telegraph services (130 ft.), and a number of series of general subcommittee records (55 ft.). Many of the following series appear in the records of each Congress: stationery requisitions from committees and officers of the House; statements of mileage of Members; resolutions for funding special studies and investigations by committees; a general subject file; minutes of subcommittee meetings (which may be filed under "M" in the general subject file); and an authorizations file for committees and officers of the House. Transcripts for open and executive session hearings are often included in the appropriate funding resolution or authorization files. Occasionally, there are special files created for particular studies or investigations. Examples of these are a study of the positions and salaries of officers of the House in the 1955-56 records (84A-F8.14), and a 1961-62 study of the problem of residences for congressional pages (87A-F7.9).

**12.64** The records of the **Elections Subcommittee** (57 ft.), generally include, for each Congress, the minutes of the subcommittee, a series of printed bills and resolutions with accompanying reports, transcripts of hearings and correspondence related to the legislation. There are records on contested elections for most Congresses. The records of the subcommittee in odd numbered Congresses contain Certificates of Ascertainment for the Presidential electors. The records of the subcommittee contain significant accumulations of records relating to poll tax legislation in the 1947-51 period (80A-D13, 81A-F8.3); bills designed to bar "unAmerican political parties" from elections in 1947-48 (80A-D13); files on the Hatch Act between 1949 and 1960 (81A-F8.3, 83A-F8.4, 85A-F8.17, 86A-F8.13); and, a 1961-62 study of State election laws prepared for use in the revision of the Federal election laws (87A-F7.13).

**12.65** The records of the **Printing Subcommittee** (16 ft.) consist primarily of printing resolutions, and minutes of subcommittee meetings.

**12.66** The records from the **Subcommittee on the Library, Enrolled Bills, Disposition of Executive Papers, and Memorials** (50 ft.) contain for each Congress a general legislative subjects file, lists of federal records proposed for disposal by the Archivist of the

United States, enrolled bills files which contain White House receipts and receipts from the National Archives, and in most cases a folder of subcommittee minutes.

**12.67** Significant accumulations of records for the following subjects related to the jurisdiction of the Library Subcommittee include a proposal to fund construction of the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, MO (83A-F8.6); the National Historical Publications Commission (85A-F8.26); a proposal to name the rose the national flower (85A-F8.26); a study of depository libraries (85A-F8.30); and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Commission (87A-F7.18).

**12.68** Records of **Special Subcommittees** include the following:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Special Subcommittee on Electrical and Mechanical Office Equipment | 84th-90th Congresses, 1955-68 | (2 ft.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Contracts | 89th-90th Congresses, 1965-68 | (2 ft.) |
| Special Subcommittee to Study Federal Printing and Paperwork | 84th-85th Congresses, 1955-58 | (30 in.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Audits | 86th-88th Congresses, 1959-64 | (1 ft.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Police | 90th Congress, 1967-68 | (5 in.) |
| Special Subcommittee on Parking | 84th-88th Congresses, 1955-64 | (6 in.) |
| Special Subcommittee on the House Restaurant | 84th Congress, 1955-56 | (1 in.) |

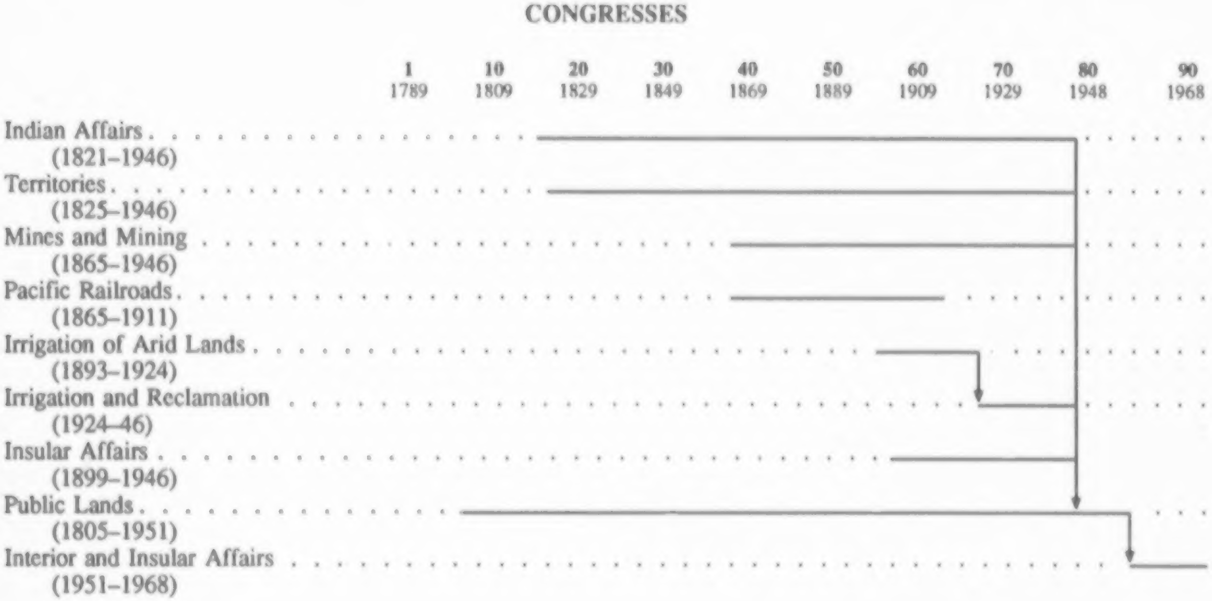
### *Related Records*

**12.69** There are records (5 ft.) of the 90th Congress Select Committee, which, pursuant to H.Res. 1 investigated the right of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. to hold a seat in the House.

**12.70** Select Committees on Campaign Contributions (or Expenditures) were created in each Congress between 1927 and 1974. There are records (70 ft.) for the select committees during the 70th and 78th through 88th Congresses (1927-29 and 1943-64). During the 90th Congress a new standing Committee on Standards of Official Conduct was established with jurisdiction over House election races. The records of these committees may contain information related to the House Administration Committee's jurisdiction over Federal elections.

# Chapter 13

# RECORDS OF THE INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND ITS PREDECESSORS


CONGRESSES
1
1789
10
1809
20
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30
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1889
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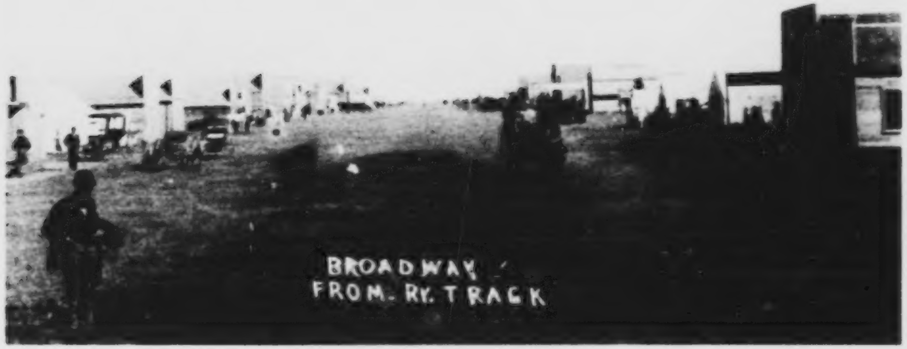
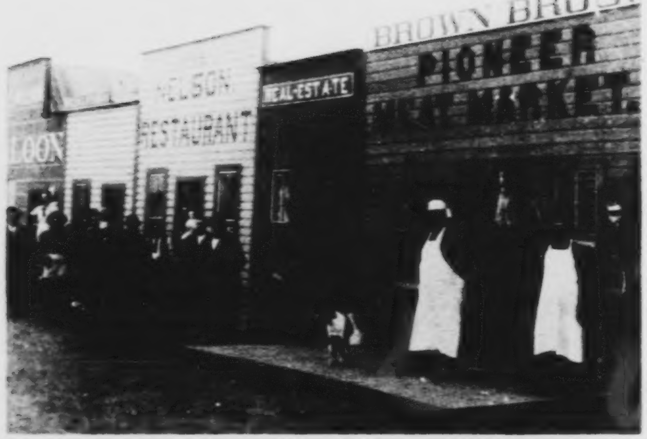
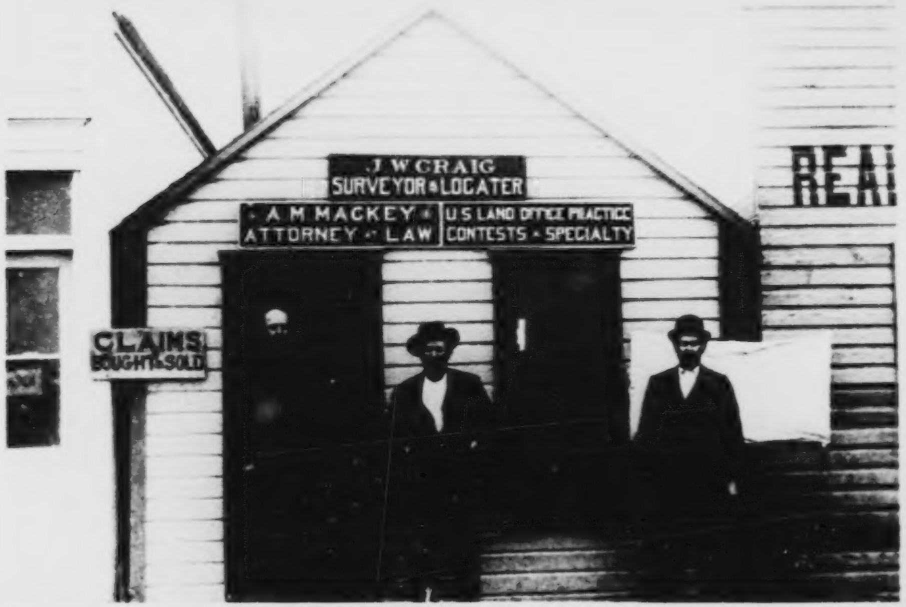
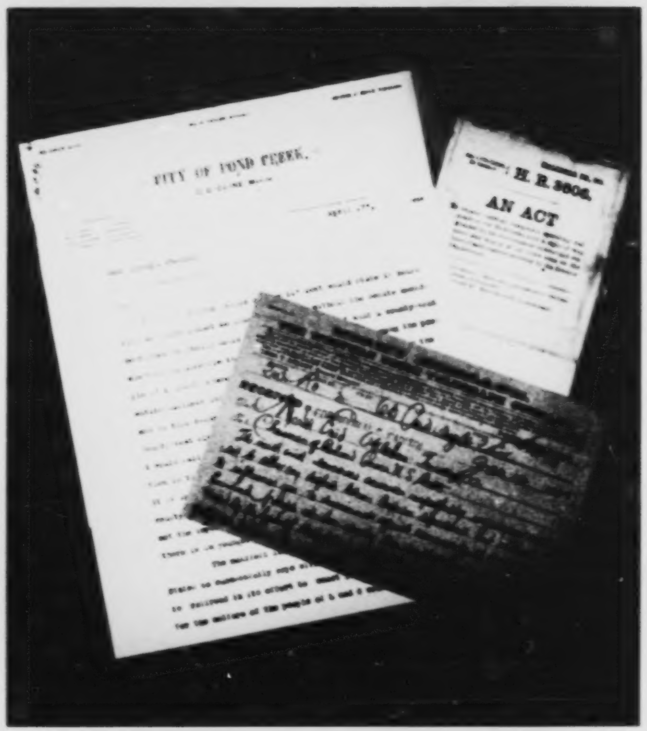
1909
70
1929
80
1948
90
1968
Indian Affairs
(1821–1946)
Territories
(1825–1946)
Mines and Mining
(1865–1946)
Pacific Railroads
(1865–1911)
Irrigation of Arid Lands
(1893–1924)
Irrigation and Reclamation
(1924–46)
Insular Affairs
(1899–1946)
Public Lands
(1805–1951)
Interior and Insular Affairs
(1951–1968)


BROADWAY
FROM. RY. TRACK


BROWN BROS.
PIONEER
MEAT MARKET.
REAL-ESTATE
NELSON
RESTAURANT
LOON


J. W. CRAIG
SURVEYOR & LOCATER
A. M. MACKEY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
U.S. LAND OFFICE PRACTICE
CONTESTS A SPECIALTY
CLAIMS
BOUGHT & SOLD
REAL


CITY OF POND CREEK.

H. R. 3606.

AN ACT

*The committee papers of the Committee on Territories, 53d Congress contain numerous documents relating to H.R. 3606, the "Oklahoma Railroad Bill" of 1894. The photographs of the city of Round Pond in "L" County, Oklahoma Territory are part of the evidence submitted to demonstrate that Round Pond was indeed a viable town, and entitled to have a railroad station under the provisions of the bill. (53A-F44.4, 233-TRP-11, 42, 47)*

# CHAPTER 13

## THE COMMITTEE ON INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS AND ITS PREDECESSORS

*Introduction*

**13.1** Under the terms of the Treaty of Paris of 1783, which ended the Revolutionary War, the United States acquired from England all land east of the Mississippi River between the borders of Canada and Spanish Florida. One of the most important accomplishments of the national government under the Articles of Confederation was the formulation of a policy outlined in the ordinances of 1785 and 1787, by which this unsettled land could be surveyed and settled in an orderly manner and organized as new States that would function on an equal basis with the original States. This policy was extended to the 828,000 square miles of land acquired by the United States under the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, a transaction that established the Rocky Mountains as the western border of the young Nation.

**13.2** Implementation of public land policy was a significant responsibility of the new Federal Government that began functioning in 1789, but the House of Representatives did not create a standing committee to consider public land matters during the early Congresses. Instead, the House dealt with land issues in the Committee of the Whole. Finally, on December 17, 1805, at the beginning of the 9th Congress, the House established a standing Committee on Public Lands.

**13.3** As the Nation acquired new Territories and internal development progressed during the 19th century, new standing committees were created to deal with specific issues. These included the Committees on Indian Affairs, Territories, Mines and Mining, Pacific Affairs, Irrigation and Reclamation, and Insular Affairs. With the exception of the Committee on Pacific Railroads (which was abolished in 1911 after it had served its purpose), these committees continued until they were abolished under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 and their jurisdictions transferred to the Public Lands Committee. In 1951 the Public Lands Committee's name was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs.

### Committee on Public Lands (1805-1951)

*History Jurisdiction*

**13.4** When it was established on December 17, 1805, the Committee on Public Lands was given jurisdiction over matters relating to "the lands of the United States."[1] Throughout the 19th century, the committee was primarily concerned with the sale and settlement of public lands. Over time, however, the committee exercised jurisdiction over certain land claims, minerals and waters on public lands, irrigation, forest reserves and game living in them, national parks, conservation, land grants, foreign ownership of land, and administration of the lands of the public domain. In 1911 the Committee on Private Land Claims was abolished and the subjects in its jurisdiction were passed to the Committee on Public Lands.

**13.5** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the Committees on Indian Affairs, Territories, Mines and Mining, Irrigation and Reclamation, and Insular Affairs were abolished and their jurisdictions were combined with those of the Committee on Public Lands. The committee's jurisdiction after the 1946 reorganization included the following subjects:

> 1. Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon; 2. Mineral resources of the public lands; 3. Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including

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[1] *Annals of the Congress of the United States*, 9th Cong., 1st sess., p. 286

> alien ownership of mineral lands; 4. Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain; 5. Military parks and battlefields, and national cemeteries; 6. Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain; 7. Measures relating generally to Hawaii, Alaska, and the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenue and appropriations; 8. Irrigation and reclamation, including water supply for reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects; 9. Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes; 10. Mining interests generally; 11. Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder; 12. Geological survey; 13. Mining schools and experimental stations; 14. Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States; 15. Relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes; 16. Measures relating to the care, education, and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.[2]

**13.6** On February 2, 1951, the name of the committee was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to more accurately reflect the full scope of its jurisdiction.

### *Records of the Committee on Public Lands, 9th-81st Congresses (1805-1951)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 20 vols. | 1853-57, 1865-67, 1873-75, 1879-1909, 1947-46 | 33rd-34th, 39th, 43rd, 46th-60th, 80th |
| Docket Books | 35 vols. | 1825-61, 1865-69, 1871-1911 | 19th-36th, 39th-40th, 42d-61st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 28 ft. | 1805-79, 1883-1917, 1923-27, 1933-51 | 9th-45th, 48th-64th, 68th-69th, 73rd-81st |
| Comm. Papers | 14 ft. | 1805-79, 1881-1903, 1905-11, 1913-17, 1925-27, 1935-48 | 9th-45th, 47th-57th, 59th-61st, 63rd-64th, 69th, 74th-80th |
| Bill Files | 37 ft. | 1903-19, 1921-25, 1927-31, 1933-51 | 58th-65th, 67th-68th, 70th-71st, 73rd-81st |
| TOTAL: | 79 ft. and 55 vols. (7 ft.) | | |

**13.7** **Minute books** provide a record of committee meetings. **Docket books** record the receipt of legislation and petitions by the committee. The entries are organized by the date the committee received the material. One large docket volume contains information for the 19th through the 27th Congresses (1825-43).

**13.8** **Petitions and memorials** exist for almost every Congress during the committee's existence. Some of the petitions ask Congress to respect the rights and dignity of Indians and blacks. One of the earliest, dated December 1806, is a plea from a group of Wyandot "Warriors and Women [who] speak with one voice to the Seventeen States — Father, we now beg of you that you will relinquish to us, the whole of the Reserve in this place . . . it is the place where we were born, where our ancestors were born; and where they, and many of our relations lie buried" (9A-F5.1). As late as the 62d Congress (1911-13) the committee received petitions concerning the sale of a Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, KS (62A-H26.3). Residents of Washington County, OH petitioned the 25th Congress (1837-39) for a "homeland" for freed slaves, stating that if Congress "set off a tract of land in one of her territories to be occupied by the Free people of color as a colony . . . multitudes of our black population would immediately emigrate to it" (25A-G18.2).

**13.9** Petitioners requested that the Federal Government grant the States public lands to sell in order to finance the establishment of schools. Files of petitions requesting land grants for various educational purposes are among the records of nearly every Congress between 1845 and 1867. One of the earliest petitions, which is among the papers of the 12th Congress (1811-13), came from the Reverend Gabriel Richard, pastor of the Catholic Society in the Territory of Michigan, who outlined his plan to educate both white and Indian children (12A-F9.1). A joint memorial submitted by the Alabama legislature in February 1830, requested "a grant of lands by the Congress of the United States for the use of a female Academy in each county of this State" for "the proper and necessary education of the females of this free and happy Republick" (21A-G18.3).

**13.10** The State of Indiana applied for grants of land to establish asylums for the deaf and dumb, insane, and other "objects of Charity" (21A-G18.9). A 37-page manuscript prepared by D. L. Dix and entitled "Memorial in behalf of the Deaf-Mutes and the Blind of the United States," includes a table showing the number of deaf and blind individuals by State and how many of them were educated, and provides a brief history of the education of individuals who were sight and hearing impaired (31A-G18.7).

**13.11** Matters concerning the national parks generated a large number of petitions during the latter part of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century (64A-H22.4, 69A-H15.3, 75A-H16.2). Although a tract of public domain had been set aside in March 1872 as Yellowstone National Park, one group of petitioners complained that "Sixteen years have elapsed without the enactment of any laws for the preservation of this Yellowstone Park from injury at the hands of trespassers" (50A-H25.2). As if to highlight their concern, a petition was presented to Congress from some citizens living in Montana who wanted to construct a railroad through the park to connect their mining interests with the Northern Pacific Railroad. The New World Mining District claimed that the only practical route for railroad construction was along the courses of the Yellowstone River and Soda Butte Creek. There are also petitions that opposed the construction of a railroad through Yellowstone National Park (53A-H28.3). During the 69th Congress (1925-27), petitions strongly protested the withdrawal of 8,000 acres from the southwest corner of Yellowstone National Park in order to provide grazing for cattle (69A-H15.3).

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[2] U.S. Congress, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Eightieth Congress*, H. Doc. 769, 79th Cong., 2d sess., 1947, p. 324.

**13.12** During the mid-1890's, mining and stock raising industries in California presented a petition for the repeal of the law establishing Yosemite National Park. Mining representatives claimed the park had significant potential as a mining area, while stockmen protested that they had always used the valleys of the park for grazing purposes. Restricting use of the park area, they believed, would significantly harm California's economic development (53A-H25.5). Other petitions concerning parks pertain to the National Park Service, established in 1916 (64A-H22.3); Kings Canyon National Park (76A-H22.4); and the purchase of the Daniel Freeman Homestead in Gage County, NE to commemorate the filing of Homestead Number 1 (74A-H16.3)

**13.13** The Federal Government granted more than 155 million acres of public land to various railroad companies to aid them in the construction of a nationwide network of railroads. As early as the 26th Congress (1839-41), the committee received a petition from North Brookfield, MA, asking Congress to "make a suitable donation of [public] land to the several States through which the road would pass, to aid them in constructing it." They believed the "cost of construction would be inconsiderable in comparison to the vast beneficial results produced" (26A-G19.4). Files of petitions concerning grants of land for roads and railroads are among the files for nearly every Congress from 1843 to 1895.

**13.14** **Committee papers** date from the creation of the committee and continue throughout its existence. A significant percentage of 19th-century committee records are claims from soldiers of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Indian wars. Claims for bounty land appear as many as 40 years after the soldier's military service. Among these records is a 297-page report on the history of boundaries and land ownership in Virginia. In addition, there is a list of Virginia military officers who had land warrants issued prior to December 31, 1784 (28A-D25.1).

**13.15** Among the earliest records of the committee is correspondence from at least two men who were prominent in American history. In October 1805, George Rogers Clark petitioned Congress to confirm a land title given to him in 1779 by The Tobacco Son, chief of the "Pi-yankeshaw" Indians, which he accepted "for fear of creating dangerous suspicions on the part of the Indians" (9A-F5.1). Included with his petition is a certified copy of the original deed from "the Antient Records of Vincennes." The committee papers show that the committee reported that the prayer of the petition should not be granted because it violated the Constitution of the State of Virginia which stated that "no purchase of land shall be made from the Indian Natives, but on behalf of the public, by the General Assembly" (9A-C4.2). The second prominent American is Andrew Jackson who wrote to the committee chairman in 1824 about a land claim involving members of his wife's family (18A-C16.1).

**13.16** From time to time, the Government needed to purchase private property to add to existing Federal lands. A letter of February 1831 from Secretary of War John Eaton recommends that the Government purchase additional land at Harper's Ferry, and enclosed documents from the Ordnance Department to show the necessity of making the purchase (21A-D21.7).

**13.17** Throughout the 19th century, there are various reports regarding the distribution and sales of public lands. In the early records of the committee, there is a report dated December 30, 1813, from Edward Tiffin, Commissioner of the General Land Office, consisting in part of a statistical breakdown of the four hundred million acres in the old Northwest by Territory or State and showing how much of the land was of public or Indian ownership. The second part of the report included a narrative on "the character of the country" (13A-D13.1). Among the records of the 20th Congress (1827-29), is a manuscript report from the surveyor of the boundary line between the States of Georgia and Florida which includes the calculations involved in establishing the line (20A-D20.3). The papers of the 22d Congress (1831-33) include a report on the sale of public lands and the apportionment of the proceeds among the several States (22A-D21.4).

**13.18** Periodically, the committee was charged with the responsibility of inquiring into apparent "wrong-doings" concerning subjects under its jurisdiction. During the 19th Congress (1825-27), the committee investigated charges preferred against George Graham, Commissioner of the General Land Office by John Wilson, a surveyor, who claimed that Graham was withholding several important papers belonging to other persons. Among the committee papers are transcripts of testimony and depositions relating to these charges (19A-D18.2). During the 22d Congress (1831-33), an investigation of the General Land Office was conducted, and the committee records include related correspondence, financial statements, testimony, and copies of reports from the Surveyor General (22A-D21.2).

**13.19** The committee papers include correspondence, copies of bills, and other supporting documents concerning the disposition of Indian lands. The records of the 22d Congress, for example, include an extensive file (3 in.) on efforts in 1832 to determine the status of a lease authorized by a treaty concluded with the Chickasaw Indians in 1818. Among the papers are copies of the minutes of the treaty negotiations with the Chickasaws in 1830, depositions, correspondence, and other supporting materials (22A-D21.3). Another interesting file concerns charges of "fraud, corruption, violence, and murder" made against some of the Army and civil officers who managed the dramatic "run" opening 6,000,000 acres of the Cherokee Outlet to white settlement in 1893. The file documents the subsequent hearing, including copies of statements, transcripts of testimony, and newspaper clippings (53A-F38.7). The papers of the 53d Congress also include files relating to white settlements on Mille Lac Reservation in Minnesota and the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon (53A-F38.11).

**13.20** The Homestead Act of May 1862 allowed the head of a household to acquire 160 acres of surveyed public lands after 5 years of continuous residence and the payment of a registration fee. There is a large body of records over an extended period on a variety of topics relating to the Homestead Act and homesteaders in both committee papers (37A-E16.9, 45A-F30.2, 48A-F31.5, 53A-F38.5) and petitions and memorials (37A-G15.4, 48A-H25.5, 62A-H26.2). Eugene L. Guthrie, for example, was granted land as a homestead by the Government, had possession of it for 3 years, and had made significant improvements on the property when, in 1864, the Government "declared [the land] to be needed and reserved for the use of the U.S." There are letters from Guthrie and others seeking compensation for his loss (38A-E19.12). Among records of the 62d Congress (1911-13) are petitions requesting the Homestead Law be amended to reduce the required residency from 5 to 3 years (62A-H26.2).

**13.21** Beginning in the 1850's, the Federal Government promoted railroad construction by granting public land to railroad companies for rights-of-way. In addition to this land, the companies received alternate sections of land for each mile of track laid by the company. The companies would then sell this land to individuals for a profit. In the records of the 51st Congress (1889-91) is correspondence concerning the restoration of lands within the 40-mile limit of the land grant for the Northern Pacific Railroad. Under the Homestead Act, many individuals settled and made improvements on public land. When the Northern Pacific Railroad began laying its track, the Government granted it land that had already been settled by homesteaders. Because the railroad's claim took precedence over the farmers, Congress decided that "those persons who after August 15,1887 and before January 1, 1889" settled on land now granted to the railroad could "transfer their entries from said tracts to other vacant Government land - they may select and receive final certificates therefor" (51A-F34.1, 53A-F38.6).

**13.22** Other subjects represented in the committee papers include land claims in Illinois (11A-C7.1, 14A-C14.1), Louisiana (14A-C14.1, 38A-F19.6), and Ohio (9A-C3.1, 19A-D18.3, 21A-D21.6); geological surveys in Oregon and Washington Territories (33A-F16.2); the sale of mineral lands (29A-D18.3, 38A-E19.8); forest reservations and timber lands (37A-E16.11, 53A-F38.3); and Yellowstone National Park (53A-F38.12). There are many files concerning land grants for educational and charitable institutions, and for canals and river and harbor improvements.

**13.23** **Bill files** contain copies of published bills, resolutions, committee reports, and hearings. The volume of records found in the bill files for the various Congresses varies dramatically. For example, bill files from the 58th to the 65th Congress (1903-19), measure approximately 13 feet. The volume drops dramatically for the years 1919-41, but from the 77th to the 81st Congresses (1941-51), there are approximately 20 feet of records in the bill files. Most of the records in the bill files consist of published material on a wide variety of topics.

## Committee on Indian Affairs (1821-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.24** The Committee on Indian Affairs was established on December 17, 1821, with jurisdiction over subjects pertaining to the Indians. Select committees to consider Indian matters had existed for several years prior to the creation of the standing committee.

**13.25** Among the matters referred to the committee were subjects relating to the care, education, and management of Indians and of their lands; the adjudication and payment of Indian depredation claims; bonds and stocks that had been part of Indian trust funds; adjudication of claims of Indians against the United States; the use and management of Indian funds; and the business and government of the Indian tribes. From 1885 until 1920, the committee exercised jurisdiction over appropriations relating to Indians.

**13.26** The Committee on Indian Affairs was abolished under the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Its jurisdiction and responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

*Records of the Committee on Indian Affairs, and Predecessor Select Committees, 17th-79th Congresses (1821-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 24 vols. | 1875-77, 1885-1919, 1935-46 | 44th, 49th-65th, 74th-79th |
| Docket Books | 24 vols. | 1843-45, 1871-73, 1885-1919 | 28th, 42d, 44th-65th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 8 ft. | 1815-71, 1875-77, 1879-81, 1883-85 1887-1927, 1939-46 | 14th-41st, 44th, 46th, 48th 50th-69th, 76th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 25 ft. | 1815-1933, 1939-46 | 14th-72d, 76-79th |
| Bill Files | 37 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 70 ft. and 48 vols. (4 ft.) | | |

**13.27** **Minute books** document attendance at meetings, appointment of subcommittees, referral of legislation, committee discussions, and other activities. The docket books include alphabetical indexes to the bills, showing the entry numbers assigned to each bill. Each docket book is organized by entry number, and each entry includes the bill number and the subject matter of the bill, frequently with remarks by the chairman indicating the committee's action on the measure.

**13.28** Although **petitions and memorials** are available for the early years of the committee, their number increases significantly after the Government became involved with the removal of the Indians to areas west of the Mississippi River. Petitions, primarily from the Northeastern section of the United States, strongly opposed any removal of the Indians from their lands. Typical is an 1831 document from citizens from Pennsylvania who claimed that it was "with pain that your Memorialists have observed the introduction of propositions before Congress, contemplating the removal of these Indians contrary to their consent . . . from the lands which they have received as an inheritance from their ancestors" (21A-G8.2). During the same period, Indian tribes petitioned Congress for protection (22A-G8.2).

**13.29** Supporters of Indian removal also submitted petitions, but these petitions are not nearly as numerous as those opposed to removal. Such petitions were received repeatedly, as the various Indian tribes faced removal beyond the Mississippi River. About 60 years later, another petition campaign was waged concerning the removal of the Southern Utes from Colorado (50A-H11.2, 51A-H9.4, 53A-H13.4).

**13.30** During the mid-19th century, the Federal Government was primarily concerned with pacifying the Indian tribes and establishing the reservation system. After the Indians were subdued and settled on reservations, agricultural education efforts were initiated, though largely without success. Many tribes became totally dependent upon the Federal Government for support, prompting friends of the Indians to contact the Government on their behalf. In 1861, for example, J. B. Chapman sent a petition to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, William P. Dole, and wrote that "I now See those Tribes in Kansas that I have known for forty years & more,- they appear to have depreciated in their mental energy and physical capacity" (37A-G5.1). The Indian agent for the Delaware Indians claimed that the "Delaware are now in greater need of mony than at any time heretofore in Consequence of the total failure of their crops" (37A-G5.2).

**13.31** Various Indian rights groups, primarily from the Northeastern States, wished to see the Indians assimilated into the mainstream of American society. In December 1883, for example, the Women's Auxiliary Indian Association of Montgomery County, PA, presented a petition with 873 names "praying for, the abolition of the reservation system, of citizenship, and equal rights for all Indians" (48A-H10.2). Many reformers believed their goal of citizenship for the Indian could be achieved by passage of the Dawes Act, which provided for allotments of land to heads of households, unmarried adults, and orphans, and granted citizenship to each Indian whose allotment was approved and patented. Many petitions received during the 1880's supported the Dawes Act. Among the petitioners were Westerners, who envisioned tracts of surplus reservation land being freed for white settlement.

**13.32** Petitions from the 1890's and into the 20th century primarily concern the education of young Indians and call for the reorganization of the Government's less-than-successful efforts to provide services to the Indian tribes. In 1927, the chief of the Miami Indians petitioned for immediate relief stating that "We were once a rich and proud Nation. . . . Now we are destitute and have become paupers among you and are left to starve, by those we trusted in solemn conclave" (69A-H4.1). The number of petitions among the records of the committee diminishes dramatically after the late 1920's, and, for some Congresses, no petitions are present.

**13.33** **Committee papers** primarily consist of original copies of committee reports and various supporting documents concerning proposed legislation. From 1795 until 1822, the Federal Government operated a system of trading "factories," or posts, that was designed to foster and strengthen trade alliances with the United States Government. The committee, which drafted bills regulating this trade, often received correspondence from agents. In the early 1820's, the factory agent at Green Bay wrote that "the Indians here are excellent judges of goods; and have been accustomed to receive those of the best quality, and generally refuse those that are not of the first quality" (17A-C12.1). Also, letters from missionaries attempting to "Christianize and civilize" the Indians are among early committee papers. John Gambold, a Moravian missionary working among the Cherokee Indians, asserted that the Indians are "endowed with the same mental Capacities, which we possess" (14A-C5.1).

**13.34** Conflicts between the Indians and whites were inevitable as white settlers moved onto Indian lands. From the late 1820's until the early 1840's, there was a significant increase in the number of claims filed by white settlers against the Federal Government for loss of property at the hands of Indians and, at the same time, Eastern Indian tribes claimed losses from encroachment upon their lands (20A-D10.1, 21A-D11.1, 22A-D11.1, 23A-D8.1, 24A-D9.2, 25A-D11.1, and 27A-D9.2). Files of claims-related materials are found among the committee papers for many of the Congresses prior to 1900.

**13.35** In the 1830's, the committee was actively involved in the removal of the Cherokee Indians to the west of the Mississippi River, and there is a significant amount of correspondence concerning the logistics of providing food and shelter, as well as protection for the Indians being transported. The Government spent "sixteen cents a day for the subsistence of each person, and forty cents a day for the subsistence of each horse" (27A-D9.3). Problems and claims connected with the removal of the various Indian tribes were a concern of the committee for a number of years thereafter. Much of the material connected with the Indian removals was published in the *Congressional Serial Set.*

**13.36** As the Federal Government's dealings with the Indians became increasingly complex, licensed traders, interpreters, Indian agents, educators, and others were required to minister to the needs of Indians placed on "reserved" lands. Despite the increased Federal bureaucracy, attempts to transform Indian warriors into independent farmers often failed, leaving the Government responsible for providing the Indians with food and clothing rations needed for survival. For example, in the early 1870's, the Red Cloud Agency received 1,109,500 pounds of beef cattle, 336,000 pounds of bacon, 1,916,250 pounds of flour, and 102,200 pounds of coffee from the Federal Government because the Sioux Indians were unable to provide food for themselves (42A-F12.5). During the 1870's and 1880's the papers include a considerable number of letters from agents regarding the condition of the Indian tribes located on their reservations, as well as financial statements for some agencies.

**13.37** Shortly after the passage of the Dawes Severalty Act in 1887, one writer proudly proclaimed, "Over 16,000 Indians have now become citizens of the United States; and more than 4,000 others, through application for land in severalty, have declared their intentions to become citizens" (51A-F16.2). As individual Indians applied for their allotments, the tribes were to be financially compensated by the Government for the loss of "surplus" reservation land that could then be opened to white settlement. There is a large amount of material dealing with the allotment system. For example, in the early 1890's, an agreement was signed with the Yuma Indians "for the cession of their surplus lands" and during the same time, compensation was given to the Wichita Indians after they lost a significant amount of reservation land (53A-F18.4). By the turn of the 20th century, many persons in the white community thought it was "of the highest importance that the allotment of lands be completed at the earliest possible moment" (57A-F14.2) so land could be available for white settlement as quickly as possible.

**13.38** Various committee records also document the Government's changing role in Indian education from the 1820's, when the United States only allowed certain private individuals or groups to educate Indians, until the 1880's when the Federal Government established an educational system of off-reservation boarding schools, as well as day schools located on the reservations. During the 1820's, missionary societies often requested permission to instruct the Indians "in science, morals, husbandry and the mechanic arts" (20A-G8.1). But, the committee received complaints, like one received in the early 1850's, which stated that religious societies were spending Government money for "teaching and preaching," rather than "school knowing" (33A-G8.3). The passage of the Dawes Act made educating young Indians a top priority, but Indian schools experienced many problems. Complaints reached the committee that Indian children spent more time laboring in the schools' fields and kitchens than they did in the classroom. On the other hand, school administrators complained they did not receive adequate funding to administer their schools. Records include narratives on the conditions of various Indian schools and financial statements (70A-F15.2).

**13.39** Beginning in the latter part of the 19th century and continuing until the committee ceased to exist, the Committee on Indian Affairs was concerned with problems associated with reservation land. For example, fishery rights were negotiated with the Yakima Indians (53A-F18.4); white settlement on land reserved for the Indians was permitted (55A-F15.5); rights-of-way for railroads on reservation land were granted (50A-F16.3, 51A-F16.2, 53A-F18.3, 55A-F15.3); and rights-of-way for irrigation ditches, canals, and dams across Indian Territory also were granted (53A-F18.2, 58A-F14.4).

**13.40** For a number of years, the committee received many complaints about the Government's role in managing Indian affairs. There were charges that Federal mismanagement, fraud, and cheating, left the Indians completely destitute. Hearings were held during the 68th Congress (1923-25) and a considerable amount of testimony was gathered regarding the condition of the Indians (68A-F19.2). This resulted in approximately 2 feet of material, much of it published, on Government mismanagement and the plight of the Indian.

**13.41** The committee papers include files on numerous other subjects. Among these are relief for destitute Choctaw and Seminole Indians who were driven from Indian Territory during the Civil War because they were loyal to the Union (37A-E7.5); an inquiry concerning the plates used to publish Henry

R. Schoolcraft's Indian history (35A-D8.7) and an estimate of the cost of completing the publication (38A-E8.1); a survey of the Navajo Indian reservation in New Mexico (41A-F11.3); and a proposed transfer of the Office of Indian Affairs from the Interior Department to the War Department (45A-F16.5). The records of the 38th and 39th Congresses (1863-67) include files relating to the concerns of certain tribes such as the Apache (38A-E8.6); Cherokee (38A-E8.7); Chippewa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi (38A-D8.8); and Shawnee (38A-E8.10); and files relating to tribal matters in the Territories of Montana (38A-E8.3, 39A-F11.10); New Mexico and Utah (38A-E8.4, 38A-E8.5, 39A-F11.11); as well as California (39A-F11.7), and the Upper Missouri River Country (39A-F11.3).

**13.42** **Bill files,** which are arranged by Congress and bill number, begin in the records of the 58th Congress in 1903 and continue throughout the remainder of the committee's existence. They usually contain copies of published bills, resolutions, committee reports, and hearings. In addition, some files include transcripts of unpublished hearings and correspondence offering opinions on proposed legislation. Subjects covered in the bill files include irrigation projects, various rights-of-way proposals, social legislation, and some private bills.

## Committee on Territories (1825-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.43** The House of Representatives established the Committee on Territories on December 13, 1825, "to examine into the legislative, civil, and criminal proceedings of the Territories, and to devise and report to the House such means, as, in their opinion, may be necessary to secure the rights and privileges of residents and non-residents."[3] By 1880, the House rules stated that the committee had jurisdiction over "subjects relating to Territorial legislation, the revision thereof, and affecting Territories or the admission of States."[4]

**13.44** The committee reported legislation concerning the structure, status, and power of the Territorial governments; statehood; powers of municipalities; boundary disputes; and on matters relating to public lands and homesteading, railroads, public works, public buildings, highways, taxation, bond issues, education, Indians, prohibition, and wildlife.

### *Records of the Committee on Territories, 19th-79th Congresses (1825-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 17 vols. | 1857-81, 1885-95<br>1901-11, 1913-25<br>1927-38 | 35th-46th, 49th-53d,<br>57th-61st, 63d-68th,<br>70th-75th |
| Docket Books | 22 vols. | 1825-43, 1849-55<br>1857-63, 1865-73<br>1879-95, 1897-1938 | 19th-27th, 31st-33d,<br>35th-37th, 39th-42d,<br>46th-53d, 55th-75th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 12 ft | 1825-71, 1873-79<br>1885-1927, 1931-33<br>1935-1946 | 19th-41st, 43d-45th,<br>49th-69th, 72d,<br>74th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 10 ft. | 1827-45, 1847-49<br>1851-67, 1871-73<br>1875-81, 1885-91<br>1893-1946 | 20th-28th, 30th,<br>32d-39th, 42d,<br>44th-46th, 49th-51st,<br>53d-79th |
| TOTAL: 34 ft. and 39 vols. (4 ft.) | | | |

**13.45** The **minute books** record the attendance of committee members, bills and resolutions discussed, committee and subcommittee reports on bills, and some markup sessions. The minutes of the 41st through the 43d Congresses (1869-1875) are relatively detailed, with some discussion of debates over bills. The **docket books** list the bills, resolutions and petitions referred to the Committee on the Territories. The volumes for the 31st through the 33d Congresses (1849-1855) contain some remarks on such topics as the establishment of boundaries between Texas and New Mexico and the question of slavery and involuntary servitude in the Territories. After the 41st Congress (1869), the docket books also include a summary of the actions taken on each measure referred to the committee.

**13.46** **Petitions and memorials** show the broad jurisdiction of the Committee on the Territories. Many petitions emanated from the Territorial legislatures and related to the administration of the respective Territories. These petitions concern such subject as requests to organize certain regions as Territories, requests for the establishment of judicial systems, and compensation for the Territorial officials. Other petitions request that residents be allowed to elect their governing officials, complain of acts of the Territorial legislatures, and suggest divisions, annexations or surveys of the boundaries of Territories. Petitions and memorials often ask for appropriations to aid in education, or the construction and maintenance of public buildings and public works such as telephone lines, highways, harbor improvements, and sewerage systems. These types of petitions are common to all the Territories and appear in the records of the committee throughout its history.

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[3] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 19th Cong., 1st sess., p. 46.

[4] Asher C. Hinds. *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), vol. 4, p. 768.

**13.47** Petitions requesting the organization of Territories and the establishment of boundary lines appear mainly in papers of the 19th through the 50th Congresses (1825-1889). Such requests came from inhabitants of Iowa (24A-G20.1); Dakota (29A-G21.4, 37A-G19.1); Minnesota (30A-G23.2); Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and western Utah (36A-G21.1); Dakota for the formation of the Territory of the Black Hills (45A-H23.2); and Oklahoma and the Indian Territory (49A-H23.2, 50A-H28.2). A petition from the citizens of Alaska protests against the organization of that district into a Territory in 1889 (50A-H28.4) and another requests organization of a Territorial government for Alaska in 1901 (57A-H26.1). The Oregon Territory attracted national attention from 1844 to 1847 over the question of the boundary between that Territory and Canada. Congress received petitions from around the country offering to organize militias and urging the United States to stand her ground against the British at the 54°40′ latitude (28A-G23.2, 29A-G21.3). Other petitions and memorials regarding boundary disputes include those concerning Michigan (20A-G20.1); Missouri and Iowa (25A-G22.1, 27A-G24.1, 29A-G21.4); Arizona and Utah (39A-H24.1, 57A-H26.2, 60A-H34.1); and Arizona and New Mexico (45A-H23.2). Territories that requested, or protested division include Florida (25A-G22.1, 26A-G24.1, 28A-G23.1); Dakota (29A-G21.4, 44A-H18.1, 45A-H23.1); Oregon (33A-G24.6); and Idaho (39A-H24.1, 49A-H23.4, 50A-H28.1). In 1877, Congress received various petitions for and against the reorganization of the existing Territories into new Territories (45A-H23.2).

**13.48** Petitions and memorials relating to statehood for the various territories appear in almost every Congress from the 24th through the 79th (1835-1946). Although many petitions sought admission to the Union, others objected to the admission of certain States. The latter highlight some of the major concerns of the Nation during the 19th and early 20th centuries. One of the most crucial issues concerned slavery in the Territories and prospective States. Petitions against slavery appear as early as the 20th Congress (20A-G20.1) when the American Convention for Promoting Abolition of Slavery requested that Congress prohibit by law further introduction of slaves into Florida (1827). The stream of anti-slavery petitions is constant from the 26th Congress through the 35th, but the majority of such petitions appears in the papers of the 33d Congress and concerns the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 (33A-G24.1 through 33A-G24.5). Typical is a standard petition from citizens of 13 Northern and Midwestern States stating: "The undersigned protest against any repeal of the prohibition of Slavery, or the addition of Slave territory to the Union, immediate or prospective, such as proposed by the Nebraska Bill of Senator Douglass" (33A-G24.2).

**13.49** A standard petition sent by residents of various counties in Ohio supported the Democratic party's endorsement of congressional non-intervention and typified the petitions that advocated the Kansas-Nebraska bill. These petitions stated:

> That Congress has no power under the Constitution to interfere with or control the domestic institutions of the several States, and that such States are the proper and sole judges of every thing appertain-ing to their own affairs not prohibited by the Constitution; that all efforts of the Abolitionists and others, made to induce Congress to interfere with questions of slavery or to take incipient steps in relation thereto, are calculated to lead to the most alarming and dangerous consequences; and that all such efforts have an inevitable tendency to diminish the happiness of the people and endanger the stability and permanence of the Union, and ought not to be counte-nanced by any friend of our political institutions. (33A-G24.3)

**13.50** Petitions concerning the slavery issue sometimes offered suggestions for resolving the problem. One such petition suggests that Congress set aside public lands in the "National Territorial Domain" to colonize the free Negroes of the United States and to consider purchasing Negroes still in bondage and settling them there as well (33A-G24.6).

**13.51** Another issue which captured the Nation's attention was the practice of polygamy in Utah. Petitions protested the admission to the Union of Utah until that Territory's constitution expressly prohibited polygamy. The question of polygamy appeared as early as 1850 when Utah sought admission to the Union as the State of Deseret (31A-G23.2). In 1879, the women of Colorado Springs, CO, requested that Congress enforce the anti-polygamy law of 1862, and a petition from citizens of Massachusetts echoed this sentiment (45A-H23.4). In 1886, the Committee on Territories received several petitions concerning a bill that would disfranchise Mormons still practicing polygamy and would change the form of government of Utah from a legislative council to a commission. Mormons protested the bill, and women objected to a clause that would disfranchise the women of Utah. The proposed disfranchisement of the Mormons would have been accomplished through the use of a test oath, as described in a petition from Idaho citizens:

> You do solemnly swear (or affirm) that you are a male citizen of the United States, over the age of twenty one years; that you have actually resided in this Territory for four months last past, and in this county thirty days; that you are not a bigamist or polygamist; that you are not a member of any order, organization or association which teaches, advises, counsels or encourages its members, devotees or any other persons to commit the crime of bigamy or polygamy, or any other crime defined by law, as a duty arising or resulting from membership in such order, organization or association, or which practices bigamy or polygamy or plural or celestial marriage as a doctrinal rite of such organization. (49A-H23.3)

In 1889, 13,000 citizens of Missouri protested the admission of Utah as a State (50A-H28.3) because polygamy had not been expressly prohibited in Utah's proposed State constitution.

**13.52** Many petitions relating to the entrance of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory to the Union raised questions regarding Indian rights and issues of homesteading and public lands. Petitions from whites requested the opening of the Oklahoma and Indian Territories to settlement. Between the 49th and 56th Congresses (1885-1901), petitions received from the Five Civilized Tribes concern the status of Indian Territory and request protection of their lands (49A-H23.2, 51A-H22.4, 52A-H23.1, 56A-H29.4).

**13.53** Another issue of national interest was that of woman's suffrage. In 1886, the American Woman Suffrage Association sent Congress its resolutions for suffrage in the Territories (49A-H23.3). In 1900, the Woman Suffrage Association of New Mexico protested against the word "male" in suffrage clauses of forms of government recommended for Hawaii, Cuba, Puerto Rico, and "other new territories" (56A-H29.2). Women also protested against the restriction of suffrage in the proposed new States of Arizona and Oklahoma (58A-H24.2, 58A-H24.6). Other petitions focused on prohibition in the Territories, 1893-1917 (53A-H32.2, 55A-H28.1-5, 56A-H29.1-4, 58A-H24.5, 61A-H33.2, 63A-H29.1, 64A-H25.1) and conservation of wildlife, particularly in Alaska and Hawaii, 1893-1946 (53A-H32.2, 57A-H26.1, 58A-H24.1, 63A-H29.1, 64A-H25.1, 66A-H20.1, 68A-H20.1, 74A-H19.1, 75A-H18.1, 79A-H20.1). Westward expansion prompted petitions concerning roads, trails, and railroads, and the availability of public lands for homesteading. Petitions requesting the construction of roads and railroads to facilitate trade and emigration appear throughout the records of the committee and were an important consideration to each Territory.

**13.54** The Committee on Territories also received petitions from private citizens about personal matters that serve to highlight historical events. In 1861, Elias S. Dennis petitioned for compensation and credit for performing his executive duties as marshal of Kansas during the period when "the said Territory was in a state of Anarchy" (36A-G21.1). In his petition, Dennis briefly describes his actions in Kansas in the spring of 1857, a time when the Territory was popularly known as "Bleeding Kansas." Members of the Hawaiian royal family sent several petitions concerning the return of the "crown lands." Edward K. Lilikalani included a copy of the last will and testament of King Kamehameha II in his first petition (58A-H24.3), and he followed this up with a second petition sent in 1911 (62A-H30.2). A Concurrent Resolution of the Hawaiian Territorial Legislature in 1908 requested that Congress pay all of Queen Liliuokalani's claims against the U.S. Government (60A-H34.2).

**13.55** Petitions of the 62d through 79th Congresses (1911-46) relate almost exclusively to Alaska and Hawaii. Those relating to Alaska concern issues of self-government, transportation, coal, fisheries, forest reserves, interstate commerce, wagon roads and trails, new land districts, disposition of public moneys from sales of public lands for road and school funds, health regulations, aid for destitute whites, medical and sanitary relief for Alaskan Indians and natives, aids to navigation, land surveys, railways and conservation. Requests for statehood and for distribution of public lands dominate the petitions concerning Hawaii.

**13.56** Several petitions pertaining to insular affairs are included in this committee's papers. The committee received petitions between 1899 and 1917 relating to the acquisition of the Philippine Islands and Puerto Rico and to conditions on those islands (55A-H28.6-9, 63A-H29.1, 64A-H25.1).

**13.57 Committee papers** include bills, resolutions, reports, hearings, and administrative papers of the Committee on Territories. No separate bill files were maintained by the Committee on Territories, but the committee papers of most Congresses contain copies of the bills and resolutions referred to the committee. Correspondence appears in the papers of all Congresses, and petitions are occasionally included. Measures passed by the Territorial legislatures are also included, along with official reports and copies of proceedings of constitutional conventions.

**13.58** An act passed February 7, 1859, required the U. S. Government to pay claims "for the loss of property taken or destroyed, and damages resulting therefrom, during the disorder which prevailed in the [Kansas] Territory from November 1st, 1855, to December 1st, 1856." Approximately 300 claims of citizens against are filed in the committee papers for such losses (35A-D21.1).

**13.59** The decision to open the Indian Territory to white settlement is well documented in the committee papers from 1875 to 1897. The papers of the 44th Congress include a remonstrance from the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, and Seminole delegations in 1876 against the organization of the Indian Territory as a United States Territory (44A-F36.6). Other papers relating to the topic include a list of precedents for placing the Territory under United States jurisdiction, and a report on the disposition of lands of the Territory according to tribe, number of acres cultivated and unimproved, and the population. The papers of the Dawes Commission, appointed to negotiate with the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, include protests, memorials, and transcripts of hearings pertaining to H.R. 3606 which provided for an extension of the boundary of Oklahoma Territory to include Indian Territory and for the admission of the combined Territory to the Union (53A-F44.4). Copies of treaties concluded between the Five Civilized Tribes and the United States are included in the papers of the 58th Congress, 1903-4 (58A-F35.4).

**13.60** Bills and reports concerning Alaska natives and Indians, 1905-46 (59A-F35.2, 60A-F48.3, 71A-F35.2, 74A-F37.2, 79A-F36.1), and racial tensions in Hawaii, 1921-46 (67A-F38.5, 74A-F37.2, and 79A-F36.2) are also included in the committee papers.

**13.61** Petitions and letters supporting prohibition in the Territories are found between 1903 and 1909 (58A-F35.2, 59A-F35.5, and 60A-F48.2) and letters and petitions for and against the repeal of prohibition are in the papers from 1931 to 1934 (72A-F28.1, 73A-F27.1).

**13.62** Committee papers cover the same subjects as those of the petitions and include bills, correspondence, and reports on matters concerning statehood, boundaries, public buildings, public works, taxation, issuance of bonds, conservation, lands, roads, and railroads. The Alaska Railroad, a project of the Government, figured prominently in the papers from 1921 through 1931 (66A-F37.2, 67A-F38.2, 69A-F40.1, 71A-F35.1).

**13.63** Although the jurisdiction of the Committee on Territories did not include matters pertaining to insular affairs, some records relating to insular possessions of the United States are among the committee papers from 1933 through 1946. They concern a constitution and state government for Puerto Rico (73A-F27.2, 75A-F36.2, 78A-G36.3), a civil government for the Virgin Islands (74A-F37.2), and independence for both the Philippine Islands and Puerto Rico (75A-F36.2). Also included are petitions from various groups in Puerto Rico regarding political, economic and social conditions on the island (78A-F36.3, 79A-F36.3).

**13.64** Additional records concerning the Territories are located in the Territorial Papers Collection (12 ft.). The Territorial Papers Collection is an artificial collection arranged by Territory and contains material relating to all the Territories except Hawaii. The collection includes papers from the 10th through 42d Congresses (1808-1873).

## Committee on Mines and Mining (1865-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.65** The Committee on Mines and Mining was created on December 19, 1865, for consideration of subjects relating to mining interests. It exercised jurisdiction over the Geological Survey, the Bureau of Mines, the establishment of mining schools and mining experimental stations, mineral land laws, the welfare of men working in mines, mining debris, relief in cases of mineral contracts connected with the prosecution of war, the mining of radium ore, and the Government's fuel yards in the District of Columbia.

**13.66** In 1947, the committee was abolished and its duties were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

*Records of the Committee on Mines and Mining, 39th-79th Congresses (1865-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 12 vols. | 1889-97, 1899-1913<br>1915-17, 1941-42 | 51st-54th, 56th-62d<br>64th, 77th |
| Docket Books | 14 vols. | 1879-81, 1885-89<br>1891-95, 1897-1913<br>1915-17 | 46th, 49th-50th,<br>52d-53rd, 55th-62d<br>64th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 ft. | 1865-67, 1887-89<br>1893-1903, 1907-19<br>1921-23, 1933-34<br>1937-42 | 39th, 50th,<br>53d-57th, 60th-65th<br>67th, 73d<br>75th-77th |
| Comm. Papers | 10 ft. | 1887-89, 1891-97<br>1899-1903, 1909-11<br>1913-27, 1933-44 | 50th, 52d-54th<br>56th-57th, 61st<br>63d-69th, 73d-78th |
| Bill Files | 1 ft. | 1903-9, 1911-13<br>1915-17,1919-31<br>1933-44 | 58th-60th, 62d<br>64th, 66th-71st<br>73d-78th |

TOTAL: 12 ft. and 26 vols. (2 ft.)

**13.67** **Minute books** contain the minutes of meetings held by the committee. They document the attendance of committee members and the topics discussed. There are unbound minutes for 1939, as well as for part of 1943-44.

**13.68** Entries in **docket books** produced by the committee are organized by the date the bill or petition was received by the committee. The entries show the actions taken on each measure.

**13.69** A few **petitions and memorials** exist for the 39th Congress (1865-67) but there are none for the years 1867 to 1887. Only a small number of petitions, ranging from a few pages to one inch, are present for any of the Congresses after that. A 50 foot long petition in the 50th Congress contains 1,350 signatures and requests the investigation of mining debris in California (50A-H18.1).

**13.70** Many petitions were received requesting a Federal agency to regulate mining operations (57A-H18.1, 60A-H25.1, 61A-H21.1, 65A-H25.3). Typical of these petitions is one from the Cripple Creek District Trades and Labor Association which petitioned the 57th Congress (1901-03) for the creation of a Department of Mines and Mining with cabinet status (57A-H18.1) and a resolution from the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin recommending the establishment of mining schools in land grant colleges (57A-H18.2). Nearly 10 years later petitions among the papers of the 62d Congress (1911-13) reveal similar support for legislation to establish and maintain mining schools in the several States (62A-H21.4). Petitioners also were concerned about mining experiment stations (62A-H21.2, 62A-H21.3) and mine safety stations (63A-H20.1).

**13.71** In 1908, the Woonsocket Central Labor Union, as well as several other groups, petitioned in support of the McHenry Bill, a bill that would have levied a 1-percent tax per ton of coal produced in the United States to provide relief for miners injured in the mines (60A-H25.2).

**13.72** In 1914, several locals of the United Mine Workers petitioned Congress for Government intervention in the coal miners' strike in Colorado. The local in Panther Creek Valley, PA, was especially vocal complaining that the mine owners were "hastening the time when the united and invincible working class will demand reparation for all the misery undergone, the bloodshed and tears spent by our class in the agony of our awful slavery" (63A-H20.2). Volume Two of hearings on the conditions of coal mines can be found among the petitions for the 62d Congress, while Volume One of the hearings is located in the committee papers of the same Congress.

**13.73** **Committee papers** contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, as well as correspondence, published hearings, and other documents relating to mines and mining. Most of the total footage of the committee papers consists of published bills and hearings. One of the publications provides information on mineral production in the United States from 1880-94 by State and type of mineral (54A-F28.2). In addition, the same publication provides information on the University of Michigan Mining School.

**13.74** **Bill files** are organized by bill number and usually contain a copy of the bill, plus any supporting materials. Like the committee papers, most of the information is published.

## Committee on Pacific Railroads (1865-1911)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.75** On July 1, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the construction of a transcontinental railroad between the Missouri River and California. Construction was to be aided by land grants and Government loans. During the 1850's the Army Topological Engineers had explored various routes for such a railroad and from as early as 1855 select House committees had been responsible for legislation regarding the construction of a transcontinental railroad. On March 2, 1865, the standing Committee on Pacific Railroads was established and assigned jurisdiction over subjects relating "to the railroads and telegraph lines between the Mississippi River and the Pacific coast."[5] By 1911, the committee had become largely inactive, and it was terminated.

### *Records of the Committee on Pacific Railroads, 37th-61st Congresses(1865-1911)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 10 vols. | 1865-67, 1875-79,<br>1885-89, 1891-1901 | 39th, 44th-45th,<br>49th-50th, 52d-56th |
| Docket Books | 14 vols. | 1865-67, 1871-73<br>1875-1901 | 39th, 42d<br>44th-56th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 ft. | 1855-57, 1859-61<br>1863-65, 1867-69<br>1873-81, 1883-85<br>1887-89, 1893-97 | 34th, 36th<br>38th, 40th<br>43d-46th, 48th<br>50th, 53d-54th |
| Comm. Papers | 2 ft. | 1855-61, 1867-81<br>1883-87,1893-1901 | 34th-36th, 40th-46th<br>48th-49th, 53d-56th |
| TOTAL: 4 ft. and 24 vols. (2 ft.) | | | |

**13.76 Minute books** contain the minutes of meetings held by the committee and identify the members present and the topics discussed.

**13.77 Docket books** list all of the bills, resolutions, petitions and memorials, and other documents that were referred to the committee. There are no indexes in the docket books and all entries are listed in the volume by the date the measure was received by the committee.

**13.78 Petitions and memorials** make up one half of the unpublished records of the committee that have been preserved. The petitions largely favor construction of a transcontinental railroad to be built through Government subsidy. Petitions are sparse for the first few years of the committee's existence (1855-1865), but the volume increased with public perception of the need for a railroad to service a particular geographic area. For example, in 1869 the committee received a petition from citizens of the State of Minnesota who urged speedy construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad (40A-H13.1). Pressure on Congress continued until the railroad was completed. A group of concerned citizens from New York petitioned the 43d Congress requesting that legislation to speed completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad (43A-H11.1).

**13.79** The largest number of petitions, which strongly supported construction of the Southern Pacific Railroad, were received between 1875 and 1879. Among the petitions is a roll petition signed by Levi Chase and 2,300 others from the California counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Barbara who support the construction of the railroad (45A-H16, 1 ft.).

**13.80** By the 1890's, the committee received accusations that railroad companies had been more interested in acquiring Federal land and subsidies than in constructing and maintaining railroads. A State convention in California protested proposed legislation reducing the debt owed by the Pacific Railroad to the U. S. Government. The petition claimed the owners of the Central Pacific Railroad, in particular, had enriched themselves at the expense of the company (54A-H24.1).

**13.81 Committee papers** contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, as well as correspondence and documents concerning the subjects within its jurisdiction. As early as the 34th Congress (1855-57), the records of a Select Committee on the Pacific Railroad contain a draft of a bill "for the construction of a wagon road, a railroad, and a telegraphic line of communication from a point on the Missouri River . . . to the Pacific Ocean at, or near, the city of San Francisco" for approximately $100,000,000 (34A-D24.4). In 1860 the issue of the constitutionality of Government subsidization of railroads was debated in H. Rept. 428, which also considered other issues such as the routes, Indians, climate, terrain, and cost would affect the railroads (36A-D26.3).

**13.82** There are copies of two agreements: one dated October 1, 1867, for George M. Pullman to furnish sleeping cars to the Union Pacific Railroad (40A-F18.4)p; the other a contract between the Union Pacific Company and Edwin D. Morgan of New York City and Oakes Ames of Massachusetts to construct the railroad (40A-F18.5).

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[5] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 38th Cong., 2d sess., p. 387.

**13.83** As the Union Pacific railroad was being built, teams of commissioners examined the completed track in 20-mile increments and submitted reports commenting upon such topics as grades, alignment, road bed, bridges, and culverts. The committee papers for the late 1860's contain several of these progress reports, as well as a 53-page report written by a special commission appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to examine the railroad's construction (40A-F18.7).

**13.84** The records of the 43rd Congress contain sworn statements by Charles Crocker, superintendent of the Central Pacific Railroad, disputing the testimony of James R. Rogers in 1864. Rogers' testimony, which concerns some practices of the company and certain promises made to him, is also included among the papers (43A-F19.1).

**13.85** Among the records of the 46th Congress (1879-81) is a lengthy statement from the president of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company, who was responding to a series of questions presented to him at a meeting of the committee held on April 15, 1880 (46A-F24.2). Other documents relating to the Northern Pacific Railroad can be found in 44A-F24.2 and 45A-F24.2.

**13.86** A significant amount of material for the later Congresses consists of transcripts of committee hearings.

## Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands (1893-1924)

## Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation (1924-46)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.87** The standing Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands was created in 1893 but select committees on that subject had existed for several years prior to that date. The committee exercised jurisdiction over irrigation projects generally, including the preemption and disposition of lands on reclaimed and irrigated projects; authorization of interstate compacts and agreements regarding irrigation projects; and disposal of drainage waters from irrigation projects. In 1924, the committee's jurisdiction was formally expanded to include subjects pertaining to the reclamation of lands and the committee's name was changed to the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation. In 1946, the committee was abolished and its duties were transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

### *Records of the Committee on Irrigation of Arid Lands, 53d-68th Congresses (1893-1924) and the Committee on Irrigation and Reclamation, 68th-79th Congresses (1924-46)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 12 vols. | 1889-93, 1897-1905<br>1907-19 | 51st-52d, 55th-58th<br>60th-65th |
| Docket Books | 10 vols. | 1889-95, 1897-1901<br>1909-19 | 51st-53d, 55th-56th<br>61st-65th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 ft. | 1897-1903, 1905-19<br>1921-23, 1925-27<br>1929-37, 1941-42 | 55th-57th, 58th-65th<br>67th, 69th,<br>71st-74th, 77th |
| Comm. Papers | 2 ft. | 1897-1919, 1921-37<br>1939-42, 1945-46 | 55th-65th, 67th-74th<br>76th-77th, 79th |
| Bill Files | 8 ft. | 1903-9, 1911-19<br>1921-42, 1945-46 | 58th-60th, 62d-65th,<br>67th-77th, 79th |

TOTAL: 11 ft. and 22 vols. (2 ft.)

**13.88** **Minute books** document meetings held by the committee. In the early years the committee frequently was unable to convene a quorum in order to conduct business. The minutes for the 77th Congress (1941-42) are unbound. The bill files for the 76th-79th Congressess (1939-46) contain unbound minutes of hearings conducted on specific bills.

**13.89** Entries in the **docket books** are organized by the date of the bill or petition. Some volumes contain additional comments in the "Chairman's Remarks" section.

**13.90** **Petitions** referred to the committee usually were presented by either joint resolutions of State legislatures or by business and civic groups, rather than by large numbers of individuals. During the first years of the committee's existence Grange associations in the Eastern States strongly opposed irrigation projects. The Grange association in Beach Haven, PA was "opposed to irrigation of the arid lands of the West at the National Exspence" because there was "Plenty of land in the Eastern being Deserded and left to grow up with weeds" and that it was "not Nissary to Reclaim more Lands to come in Competition with that already being Cualtiveted" (57A-H13.1). The Grange appears to have presented the only organized opposition to Federal irrigation projects, since most of the petitions strongly favored involvement of the Government. For example, a resolution from the General Assembly of Colorado expressed the belief that the "continued material growth of the western states and the productiveness of the public and private lands thereof, are dependent in a large degree upon systematic irrigation of the same" (57A-H13.1).

**13.91** In 1902, Congress passed the Newlands Reclamation Act, also known as the National Reclamation Act, which authorized Federal construction of irrigation projects. Proceeds from the sale of public lands in the Western States were to finance the construction and maintenance of the projects. In the early 1920's, Oregon had 1,250,000 acres in projects and it was estimated that an additional 1,000,000 acres of land could be irrigated (67A-H9.1).

**13.92** Due to the combination of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl, representatives from farm associations, drainage districts, and businessmen petitioned Congress to seek financial relief through loans to drainage and levee districts (71A-H8.1). Representatives from Ordway, CO, complained that during the past year they had experienced a tremendous deflation of prices of farm products, cattle and other livestock, and that their locality had experienced almost a total crop failure (72A-H7.1).

**13.93** **Committee papers** contain copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, as well as correspondence, published hearings, and other documents relating to the subjects in its jurisdiction. Records for the 62d Congress (1911-13) include approximately 6 inches of 3-by-5 inch cards containing abstracts of correspondence or transcripts of the contents of telegrams. Each card is stamped with "U.S. Reclamation Service" at the bottom (62A-F21.1). For 1913-15, inspection reports of irrigation projects under construction provide information on the status of the projects, as well as any problems associated with them. Cost overruns, inefficiency, and waste appear to have been the major complaints (63A-F21.1). Thereafter, most of the material found in the committee papers seems to have been published.

**13.94** **Bill files** are organized by bill number and usually contain a printed copy of the bill, plus supporting materials. The papers for H.R. 25141, 60th Congress (1907-9), include a suggestion from a resident of Hawaii that the coverage of the National Reclamation Act of 1902 be extended to the islands. Most public lands were on the leeward, or dry side, of the islands and for strategic purposes, he wished to keep the "citizenship of the Territory thoroughly American" by developing the land so it could "be disposed of to active and intelligent Americans of the same type as those attracted to the reclaimed public lands in the western states" (60A-D15). Letters from Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior under Calvin Coolidge, discuss water rights between the United States and Mexico, and offer insights and suggestions regarding H.R. 9826, a bill on the Colorado River Basin (69A-D16). Among the bill files for the 74th Congress (1935-37), is a 28-page, typed summary of individual projects, which gives the name of the irrigation district, date and amount of payments, and size of the area, and includes a narrative on the status of the project (H.R. 1423).

## Committee on Insular Affairs (1899-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.95** The Treaty of Paris, signed on December 10, 1898, officially concluded the Spanish-American War. According to the provisions of the treaty, Spain ceded the Philippine Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam to the United States, and relinquished her sovereignty over Cuba. On January 1, 1899, the Spanish evacuated Cuba, and control of the island was assumed by a military governor who represented the United States. On December 8, 1899, the House established the Committee on Insular Affairs to consider "all matters (excepting those affecting the revenue and appropriations) pertaining to the islands which came to the United States through the treaty of 1899 with Spain, and to Cuba."[6] Just 6 days earlier, on December 6, 1899, the United States had acquired exclusive rights to certain islands in Samoa through an agreement with England and Germany. Subsequently, matters relating to American Samoa also came within the committee's jurisdiction. In 1902 the Republic of Cuba was established, and jurisdiction over matters concerning Cuba was transferred to the Committee on

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[6] Asher C. Hinds. *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), vol. 4, p. 789.

Foreign Affairs in 1906. Eventually, the jurisdiction of the Committee on Insular Affairs was expanded to cover the Virgin Islands of the United States which were purchased from Denmark by the treaty in 1916. In 1946 the committee was abolished and its responsibilities transferred to the Committee on Public Lands.

**13.96** The Committee on Insular Affairs reported legislation concerning civil governments for each of the insular possessions. The committee also reported legislation concerning the clarification of citizenship status of inhabitants of the islands, ratification and confirmation of actions of the Philippine and Puerto Rican legislatures, matters relating to public works, harbor improvements, wharves, roads, railways, telephone and telegraph cables, electricity, trade and tariff laws, prohibition, education, taxes, bond issues, and relief from hurricanes and the depression. The committee also issued reports on the social, economic, and political conditions in the insular possessions.

***Records of the Committee on Insular Affairs, 56th-79th Congresses (1899-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 9 vols. | 1899-1917, 1943-46 | 56th-64th, 78th-79th |
| Docket Books | 8 vols. | 1899-1901, 1903-17 | 57th-58th, 60th-64th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 ft. | 1901-7, 1911-17<br>1923-36, 1939-41 | 57th-59th, 62d-64th,<br>68th-74th, 76th |
| Comm. Papers | 7 ft. | 1899-1909, 1911-17<br>1919-1921, 1923-46 | 56th-60th, 62d-64th<br>66th, 68th-79th |
| Bill Files | 2 ft. | 1903-9, 1911-13<br>1919-25, 1927-31<br>1933-46 | 58th-60th, 62d<br>66th-68th, 70th-71st<br>73d-79th |

TOTAL: 11 ft. and 17 vols. (1 ft.)

**13.97** The **minutes** of committee meetings document the attendance of committee members, the topics discussed, individuals who testified before the committee, and some markup sessions. The **docket books** list, in the order received, all bills and resolutions referred to the committee and record actions related to each bill or resolution. The minute and docket books provide an excellent chronicle of the committee's activities for the years in which these records exist.

**13.98** **Petitions and memorials** span a wide variety of issues. The majority of the petitions from 1911 to 1941 concern the question of Philippine independence (62A-H13.3, 63A-H11.1, 64A-H10.1, 69A-H5.1, 70A-H4.1, 71A-H6.1, 72A-H5.1, 73A-H7.1, 74A-H5.2, 76A-H11.1). Nearly all petitions received from Filipinos favored independence (69A-H5.1,71A-H6.1, 72A-H5.1, 73A-H7.1, 74A-H5.2, 76A-H11.1); one petition (1935) from Muslim Filipinos in 1935 opposed independence because they feared Christian rule and oppression (74A-H5.2). Although petitions relating to independence are distributed throughout the records, most of them are in the records for the 71st through 73d Congresses (1929-1934), when Congress was considering legislation regarding the political status of the Philippine Islands. After Franklin Roosevelt approved the Tydings-McDuffie Act in 1934 which provided for independence for the Philippines on July 4, 1946, petitions concerning the Philippines requested immediate independence (74A-H5.2, 76A-H11.1).

**13.99** The effect of Philippine independence on business concerns was a closely related issue. Between 1915 and 1917, the Cotton Manufactures Association, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, and the Philippine Railway Company all expressed fears of the economic effects of Philippine independence. They requested that, if the Philippines were freed, "adequate provision be made for the protection of all securities issued and obligations entered upon by the Philippine government" (64A-H10.1).

**13.100** The political status of Puerto Rico was also a popular concern of petitioners (58A-H9.1, 59A-H10.1, 62A-H13.1, 64A-H10.3, 70A-H4.1, 71A-H6.2, 73A-H7.1, 74A-H5.3, 76A-H11.2). Many wished that Puerto Ricans be given U.S. citizenship (59A-H10.1, 62A-H13.1, 64A-H10.3). The years between the Foraker Act of 1900, which established a colonial government, and the Organic Act of 1917, which made Puerto Rico a U.S. Territory, saw petitions requesting the separation of the executive and legislative branches of the Puerto Rican government (58A-H9.1, 59A-H10.10). Petitions from the 70th to 74th Congresses (1927-1936) favor an elected Governor rather than one appointed by the President of the United States (70A-H4.1, 71A-H6.2, 73A-H7.1, 74A-H5.3). Many other petitions request an investigation of social, economic and political conditions in Puerto Rico and ask for relief for the island (69A-H5.1, 71A-H6.2, 74A-H5.1, 74A-H5.3, 76A-H11.2). The 74th Congress (1935-1936) received several petitions concerning relief and aid to Puerto Rico, including a request from the Decatur Milling Company that Puerto Rico be given aid because the company was suffering from a decrease in trade with the island, and a request to investigate the Puerto Rican Emergency Relief Administration (74A-H5.3). During the 76th Congress, the Insular Association of Social Workers of Puerto Rico sent a resolution declaring a state of emergency due to dire social and economic conditions on the island (76A-H11.2).

**13.101** Although the Committee on Insular Affairs had jurisdiction over the Virgin Islands and Guam, there are few petitions pertaining to these possessions. Between 1929 and 1933, after the control of the Virgin Islands passed from the Navy to the Department of the Interior, the Committee on Insular Affairs received two petitions requesting that the Navy remain in the islands (71A-H6.2, 72A-H5.1). The Congress of Guam sent a resolution during the 72d Congress expressing continued allegiance to the United States (72A-H5.1).

**13.102** Among the petitions and memorials are also several petitions that pertain to matters outside the committee's jurisdiction. During the 64th Congress (1915-1917), the committee received petitions and resolutions regarding wages and bonuses for employees in the Panama Canal Zone, and others commending the work of the Alaska Road Commission (64A-H10.3). The committee also received a petition from the Chamber of Commerce of Seward, AK protesting the conditions at a sanitarium in Portland, OR and requesting that Congress make provision for a hospital to care for Alaska's insane (64A-H10.3).

**13.103** The **committee papers** from the 56th through 72d Congresses (1899-1933) contain the same type of material found in the bill files of later years, that is printed bills, transcripts of hearings, and committee reports. Also included in the committee papers are reports made by individuals and by investigative commissions on conditions in the Philippine Islands (64A-F16.1), the Virgin Islands (66A-F21.1) and the Samoan Islands (71A-F18.3), as well as annual reports for the Virgin Islands (71A-F18.4) and Puerto Rico (71A-F18.2).

**13.104** Throughout the committee papers are original letters from the Presidents of the United States transferring copies of laws and ordinances approved by the insular governments. Certified copies of franchises granted by the Puerto Rican Public Service Commission also appear throughout the records. The committee papers include transmittal letters, the printed laws of the Philippine and Puerto Rican legislatures, communications between the insular governments and the committee, and copies of Puerto Rican Public Service franchises.

**13.105** Some committee papers concern Phillipine independence. The papers of the 72d Congress include the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Bill, an act "to enable the people of the Philippine Islands to adopt a constitution and form a government for the Philippine Islands and to provide for the independence of the same," along with President Herbert Hoover's message vetoing the bill (72A-F14.1).

**13.106** The **bill files** for the earlier Congresses are sparse. Those of the 73d through 79th Congresses (1933-1946) include files of bills and accompanying copies of hearings and public laws. The bills concern the same topics as the petitions, that is, Philippine independence (66A-D13, 68A-D14, 71A-D12, 73A-D13), forms of government and the question of citizenship for inhabitants of the insular possessions (59A-D, 60A-D, 71A-D, 73A-D, 74A-D, 75A-D, 76A-D, 78A-D), economic and social relief (59A-D, 73A-D, 74A-D, 75A-D, 76A-D, 79A-D), and prohibition of liquor and drugs (73A-D). There is also a file on H. Res. 159 which authorized the committee to investigate the political, social, and economic conditions in Puerto Rico, an investigation that spanned the 78th and 79th Congresses.

## Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs 1951-68

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**13.107** Under the 1946 Reorganization Act, six standing committees—Public Lands, Indian Affairs, Territories, Mines and Mining, Irrigation and Reclamation, and, Insular Affairs—were merged to form a new committee. At the time of the merger, the committee assumed the name of Committee on Public Lands, but during the 82nd Congress (1951-52), the name was changed to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to reflect more accurately the responsibilities of the committee.

**13.108** The jurisdiction of the committee includes the following subjects:

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> (a) Forest reserves and national parks created from the public domain; (b) Forfeiture of land grants and alien ownership, including alien ownership of mineral lands; (c) Geological Survey; (d) Interstate compacts relating to apportionment of waters for irrigation purposes; (e) Irrigation and reclamation projects, and easements of public lands for irrigation projects, and acquisition of private lands when necessary to complete irrigation projects; (f) Measures relating to the care, education, and management of Indians, including the care and allotment of Indian lands and general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds; (g) Measures relating generally to Hawaii, Alaska, and the insular possessions of the United States, except those affecting the revenue and appropriations; (h) Military parks and battlefields, and national cemeteries; (i) Mineral land laws and claims and entries thereunder; (j) Mineral resources of the public lands; (k) Mineral interests generally; (l) Mining schools and experimental stations; (m) Petroleum conservation on the public lands and conservation of the radium supply in the United States; (n) Preservation of prehistoric ruins and objects of interest on the public domain; (o) Public lands generally, including entry, easements, and grazing thereon; (p) Relations of the United States with the Indians and the Indian tribes.[7]

**13.109** The committee functioned through subcommittees that essentially mirrored the old standing committees that had existed before the 1946 merger. There were subcommittees on Indian affairs, irrigation and reclamation, mines and mining, public lands, and territories and insular affairs. During the 87th Congress (1961-62) a new subcommittee on the national park system was created to handle matters in that increasingly complex area.

### *Records of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, 82nd-90th Congresses (1951-1968)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 5 ft. | 1951-68 | 82d-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 ft. | 1951-68 | 82d-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 57 ft. | 1951-68 | 82d-90th |
| Bill Files | 204 ft. | 1951-68 | 82d-90th |
| TOTAL: | 270 ft. | | |

**13.110** The Committee produced approximately 5 feet of unbound **minutes** that provide a record of committee and subcommittee meetings. From the 82d to the 85th Congresses (1951-58), the minutes cover the full committee; from the 86th to the 90th Congresses (1959-68) separate minutes were maintained for the full committee and subcommittees.

**13.111** Legislative calendars furnish essentially the same information as docket books did for earlier Congresses; they document the receipt and disposition of legislation and petitions by the committee. There is at least one copy of a legislative calendar for each Congress from 1951-68.

**13.112** Most of the **petitions and memorials** referred to the committee were on preprinted forms and focused upon a single issue. Perhaps the most interesting petition was from the students of Roosevelt High School in Honolulu, Hawaii. This petition, which supported Hawaiian statehood, was hand-printed by a calligrapher and apparently signed by almost all of the students at the school (86A-H7.1).

**13.113** **Committee papers** include resolutions, reports, published and unpublished hearings, executive communications, prints of bills, and other administrative papers necessary for the committee to conduct its business. Among the papers of the 82d Congress (1951-52), there is a report on synthetic liquid fuels written by Secretary of the Interior, Oscar Chapman, in February 1951. In his report he states that:

> In view of the ever-increasing need for petroleum in the United States, [and] the critical international situation that may result in loss of important foreign supplies . . . the prompt development of a synthetic oil industry is not only requisite to safeguarding our oil supply, but it is also an economically sound course for the foreseeable future (82A-F9.1).

More information on synthetic fuels is among the committee papers of the 83d Congress (83A-F9.1).

**13.114** The committee papers also include a bound volume containing a structural engineer's report on the Ford's Theatre Building. It contains 50 photographs, primarily of the interior; floor plans of the building from the basement to the attic; and the outside measurements of the building (85A-F9.1).

**13.115** **Bill files** are organized by bill number and usually contain a printed copy of the bill, plus supporting materials. The committee dealt with a number of bills relating to Indians. Among the bill files of the 86th Congress (1959-60) are published hearings, photographs, a map, and other evidence relating to an investigation by the Secretary of the Interior regarding the advisability of the establishment of Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, KS as a national shrine and monument (H.R. 2334). This two-acre plot of land was used by the Wyandot Indians as a burial ground as early as 1844 (85A-D8). In the 87th Congress, H.R. 3534 proposed to donate to certain Indian tribes some submarginal lands of the United States and make such lands part of their reservations (87A-D7).

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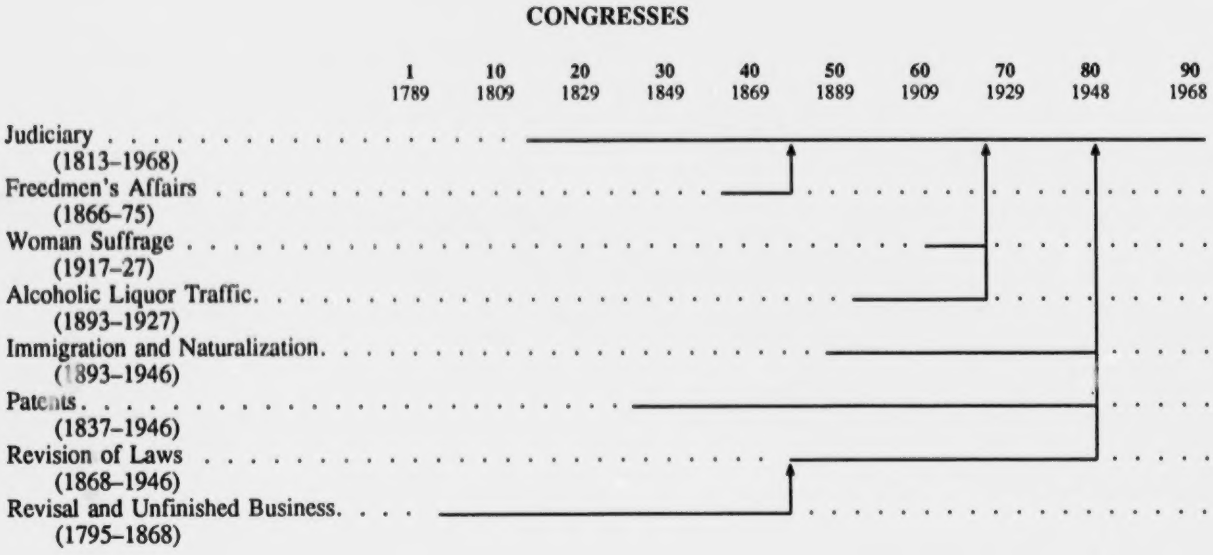
[7] U.S. Congress, House *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 343.

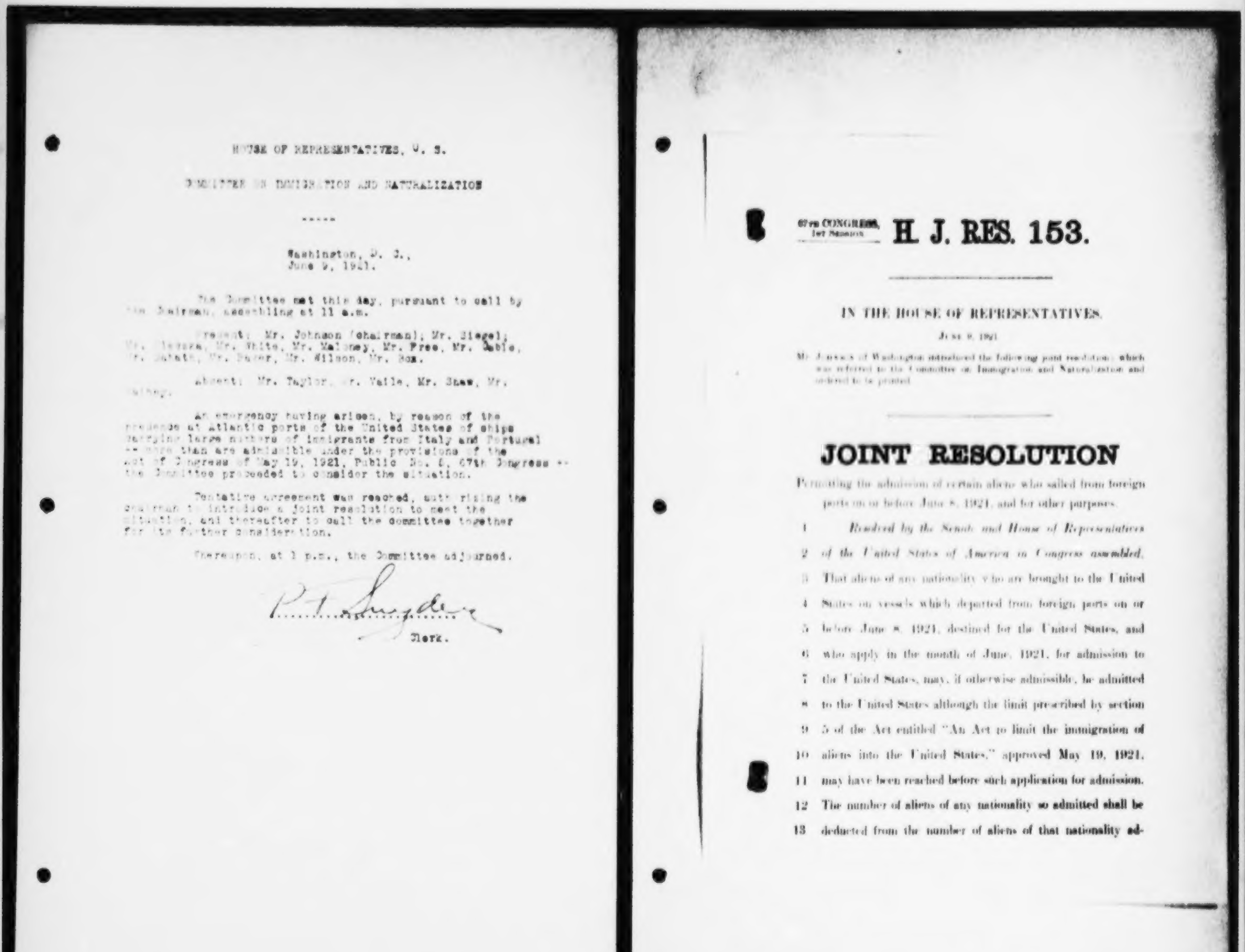
**13.116** During the 1950's and 1960's the committee dealt with important legislation relating to the Territories of the United States. A bill introduced during the 87th Congress provided that the unincorporated territories of the Virgin Islands and Guam would each be represented in Congress by a territorial deputy to the House of Representatives (87A-D7, H.R. 4752). The 85th Congress (1957-58) saw the introduction of two bills proposing statehood for Alaska and Hawaii: H.R. 49 provided for the admission of the State of Hawaii into the Union, while H.R. 50 concerned statehood for Alaska (85A-D8).

**13.117** The massive Central Valley Water Project of California occupied a significant amount of the committee's time. The project's goal was to provide an adequate water supply from northern California to the more populous southern portion of the state by building a system of reservoirs and canals to save and transport water to the south. Information on this project can be found among the committee papers and bill files of several Congresses. The committee papers for the 85th Congress, for example, include two volumes of published documents (85A-F9.3), while the bill files for the 87th Congress also contain information on the project (87A-D7, H.R. 980).

# Chapter 14

# RECORDS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND RELATED COMMITTEES


CONGRESSES
1 1789
10 1809
20 1829
30 1849
40 1869
50 1889
60 1909
70 1929
80 1948
90 1968
Judiciary (1813–1968)
Freedmen's Affairs (1866–75)
Woman Suffrage (1917–27)
Alcoholic Liquor Traffic. (1893–1927)
Immigration and Naturalization. (1893–1946)
Patents. (1837–1946)
Revision of Laws (1868–1946)
Revisal and Unfinished Business. (1795–1868)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, U. S.

COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

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Washington, D. C.,
June 9, 1921.

The Committee met this day, pursuant to call by the Chairman, assembling at 11 a.m.

Present: Mr. Johnson (chairman); Mr. Siegel; Mr. Kleczka, Mr. White, Mr. Maloney, Mr. Free, Mr. Cable, Mr. Sabath, Mr. Raker, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Box.

Absent: Mr. Taylor, Mr. Vaile, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Rainey.

An emergency having arisen, by reason of the presence at Atlantic ports of the United States of ships carrying large numbers of immigrants from Italy and Portugal -- more than are admissible under the provisions of the Act of Congress of May 19, 1921, Public No. 5, 67th Congress -- the Committee proceeded to consider the situation.

Tentative agreement was reached, authorizing the chairman to introduce a joint resolution to meet the situation, and thereafter to call the committee together for its further consideration.

Thereupon, at 1 p.m., the Committee adjourned.

P. T. Snyder
Clerk.

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67th CONGRESS,
1st Session.

# H. J. RES. 153.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

June 9, 1921.

Mr. Johnson of Washington introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization and ordered to be printed.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

Permitting the admission of certain aliens who sailed from foreign ports on or before June 8, 1921, and for other purposes.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That aliens of any nationality who are brought to the United States on vessels which departed from foreign ports on or before June 8, 1921, destined for the United States, and who apply in the month of June, 1921, for admission to the United States, may, if otherwise admissible, be admitted to the United States although the limit prescribed by section 5 of the Act entitled "An Act to limit the immigration of aliens into the United States," approved May 19, 1921, may have been reached before such application for admission. The number of aliens of any nationality so admitted shall be deducted from the number of aliens of that nationality ad-

*Pages from the minutes of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization show how the committee responded to an emergency situation requiring legislation. (67A-F18.5)*

# CHAPTER 14

# RECORDS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND RELATED COMMITTEES

## Introduction

**14.1** The Judiciary Committee was created in 1813. During its early years a wide range of subjects was referred to it, thus defining a very broad jurisdiction. Each of the other committees described in this chapter was created to administer part of the Judiciary Committee's early jurisdiction, functioned for a period of time, and was eventually reabsorbed into Judiciary.

**14.2** Three of the committees—Freedmen's Affairs, Woman Suffrage, and Alcoholic Liquor Traffic—were established to deal with very specific problems, and, in each case, the problem was resolved by the passage of an amendment to the Constitution. Each of the committees was disbanded shortly after the passage of the amendment and its jurisdiction was returned to the Judiciary Committee.

**14.3** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the jurisdictions of the Committees on Patents, on Immigration and Naturalization, and on Revision of Laws were combined with that of the old Judiciary Committee to form the modern Judiciary Committee. The Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business is described here because some of its duties were similar to those of the Committee on Revision of Laws. The jurisdictions of the Committees on Claims and on War Claims were also transferred to the Judiciary Committee under the 1946 act, but the records of these two committees will be described in Chapter 5 along with those of other claims committees.

**14.4** The House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC, 1942-75) was created during a crisis. After the dissolution of HUAC, its jurisdiction and records were returned to the Judiciary Committee, which had traditionally dealt with subversive activities. The records of the Un-American Activities Committee are described in Chapter 25.

## Committee on Patents (1837-1946)

### *Jurisdiction and History*

**14.5** Congress is granted the power, under the Constitution: "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries"; that is, to issue patents and copyrights. In 1790, Congress passed the first patent legislation, which guaranteed certain rights to inventors and granted the authority to issue patents to the executive branch.

**14.6** In 1837, the standing Committee on Patents was established in the House, and, under a revision of House rules in 1880, its jurisdiction was expanded to include "patents, copyrights, and trademarks." Before the establishment of the standing committee, most petitions, memorials, executive messages, and legislation relating to patents had been referred to the Judiciary Committee or to select committees on patents.

**14.7** The Patent Committee reported legislation concerning patent, copyright, and trademark laws and revision of such laws; the jurisdiction of courts in patent cases; the counterfeiting of trademarks; and the Patent Office and its affairs. Private legislation, usually initiated in response to petition, was an important part of the work of the committee, especially between 1840 and 1890. Private legislative relief was sought by inventors for whom protection was not provided in the existing patent law (such as aliens and government employees) and by patentees who requested extensions on patents because they had not profited sufficiently during the period provided by the original patent.

*Records of the Committee on Patents, 25th-79th Congresses (1837-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 16 vols. | 1869-82, 1887-1900<br>1909-10, 1919-46 | 41st-47th, 50th-56th<br>61st, 66th-79th |
| Docket Books | 22 vols. | 1843-47, 1853-55<br>1857-71, 1875-1901<br>1909-11, 1919-46 | 28th-29th, 33d<br>35th-41st, 44th-56th<br>61st, 66th-79th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 10 ft. | 1837-1911 | 25th-61st |
| Comm. Papers | 19 ft. | 1837-41, 1843-65<br>1871-1901, 1903-5<br>1907-11, 1919-46 | 25th-26th, 28th-38th<br>42d-56th, 58th<br>60th-61st, 66th-79th |
| Bill Files | 13 ft. | 1901-8, 1919-46 | 57th-60th, 66th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 42 ft. and 38 vols. (3 ft., 2 in.) | | |

**14.8** The **minute books** and **docket books** contain information that is especially useful because the records do not contain committee calendars before 1940. The minute books document attendance at meetings, appointment of subcommittees, referral of legislation to subcommittees, markup sessions, and other committee discussions and activities. The docket books generally contain an entry for each bill and resolution referred to the committee, along with a record of activities related to it. During the early years there was usually a minute book and a docket book for each Congress, but after World War I both the minute books and docket books may contain the records for multiple Congresses.

**14.9** There are **petition and memorial** files for every Congress from the creation of the committee until the 61st Congress. After 1911, the petitions and memorials that have been preserved are no longer filed as a separate series, but are usually in the bill file for the bill or resolution to which they relate.

**14.10** The **petitions and memorials** include requests for revision or amendment of various sections of patent laws (28A-G15, 30A-G14, 31A-G13, 33A-G15, 45A-H17, 46A-H18, 48A-H21, 49A-H17, 50A-H21), copyright or trademark legislation (48A-H21, 49A-H17, 50A-H21, 51A-H16, 52A-H17, 54A-H25, 55A-H20, 59A-H19), investigation or reorganization of the Patent Office (30A-G14, 48A-H21), increases in pay for Patent Office employees (25A-G14, 37A-G10), and various other subjects.

**14.11** Many of the petitions request extensions of patents and sometimes contain extensive documentation supporting the claims on which the requests were based. Examples of claims petitions include renewal appeals for Jethro Wood's cast-iron plow (30A-G14.2, 7 in.), Woodworth's planing machine (31A-G13.4, 32A-G14.4, 8 in.), McCormick's reaper (32A-G14.2, 33A-G15.3, 34A-G13.3, 36A-D16.1), Goodyear's patent on the vulcanization process for rubber (38A-G14.1), Page's patent on a portable sawmill (38A-G14.2), and Sherwood's patent on door locks (38A-G14.3). Other examples include provisions for the payment of royalties to inventors by other manufacturers (43A-H12.2, 20 in.), the extension of the patent on a steam-driven grain shovel (47A-H16.1, 2 in.), and extension of a patent on a method of forming hat bodies (43A-H12.1, 5 in.).

**14.12** The petition files also document opposition to the renewal of certain patents. The records from the 31st Congress (1849-51), for instance, contain petitions against renewal of the patents on McCormick's reaping machine, Parker's improvements on the waterwheel, Jethro Wood's cast-iron plow, Woodworth's planing machine, Blanchard's self-directing machine, and Goodyear's process for manufacturing India Rubber, as well as Goodyear's protest against Horace Day's claims to the patent for the manufacture of India Rubber, and Elizabeth Wells' claim for remuneration for her late husband's invention of "exhilarating gases" (ether) for use in surgical operations (31A-G13).

**14.13** **Committee papers** are sparse for the years before 1932 and consist largely of manuscript copies of reports that were later printed and collections of printed bills referred to the committee. There are, however, sizable files containing documentation on certain patent cases, such as documents supporting petitions for extensions of patents on Torrey and Tilton's door spring (43A-F20.1, 6 in.), Eliza Well's improvement in machinery for forming hat bodies (43A-F20.2, 6 in.), Wickersham's improvement in sewing machines (43A-F20.3, 3 in.), Cook's sugar evaporator (46A-F25.1, 3 in.), and Twinning's method for the manufacture of ice (47A-F19.1, 2 in.). Other records include hearings on the Hyatt filter (56A-F28) and a privately printed hearing on a copyright bill (54A-F31).

**14.14** The committee papers after the 71st Congress (1929-31) consist primarily of correspondence files, usually arranged according to particular legislative subjects. The records from 1935-36 (74A-F28) contain correspondence on copyright legislation (18 in.), patent pooling (30 in.), copyright legislation hearings (12 in.), and the creation of a Federal department of science, art, and literature (6 in.). The 1931-33 files (72A-F23) contain correspondence on copyrights (6 in.) and patents (8 in.).

**14.15** The **bill files** usually contain copies of the various forms of the printed bills, printed hearings, reports, and, when appropriate, the printed public laws. They may also contain correspondence with Government agencies and other interested parties, transcripts of unpublished testimony given at hearings, and other documents related to a bill. After about the 61st Congress (1909-11), petitions and memorials are sometimes filed in the bill files.

**14.16** Bill files for the 57th through 70th Congresses (1901-29) are thin, but beginning with the 71st Congress (1929-30) they are more complete and contain files on most or all bills and resolutions referred to the committee. The bill files for the 77th, 78th, and 79th Congresses appear to contain folders on each piece of legislation referred to the committee during each Congress. The bill files for the 79th Congress (1945-46) were maintained so thoroughly that they contain a file on S. 1717, a bill to provide for the development and control of atomic energy, even though the bill was referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and not the Patents Committee. The file on S. 1717 contains letters mostly from patent lawyers who were concerned that sections 7 and 11 of the bill would have an effect on existing patent laws (79A-D27).

**14.17** The bill files document the broad range of legislative subjects dealt with by the committee and changes in the emphasis of the legislative workload over time. The bill files indicate that during the 66th Congress (1919-21) various efforts were made to improve conditions in the Patent Office; the files contain correspondence (6 in.) relating to a number of bills proposing the establishment of an independent patent office and an independent court of patent appeals, and an increase in the workforce and salaries in the Patent Office (66A-D22). The records from 1929-31 contain files on H.R. 720, a bill to provide for the purchase by the United States of certain aeronautical and aviation designs and inventions from Edwin F. and Leslie F. Naulty of New York; H.R. 11372, a bill to provide for the patenting of agricultural plants; H.R. 2828, a bill to amend general trademark legislation; H.R. 6990, a bill to generally revise the copyright law; H.R. 2267, a bill to extend a patent to Thomas McKee for an improvement in the design of adjustable chairs; H.R. 13157, a bill relating to suits of infringement of patent where the patentee was in violation of the antitrust laws; and other bills (71A-D23).

**14.18** The records of the late 1930's and early 1940's reflect a growing concern with protecting the national interest. The records of the 77th Congress contain bill files on H.R. 3359, a bill to prohibit, in the national interest, the publication of certain patents; H.R. 3360, a bill to prohibit the enforcement of injunctions on patents when necessary for the national defense; H.R. 7620, a bill to adjust royalties for the use of inventions for the benefit of the United States; and, H.J. Res. 32, a resolution defining a principle of international reciprocity involving patents, trademarks, secret formulas, and so forth. The files contain correspondence, hearing transcripts, copies of bills and resolutions, and reports and other documents related to the legislation. The file on H.J. Res. 32, for instance, contains correspondence and other related material, including a copy of a *CLICK* magazine article on the subject of Nazi patents and the royalties paid to Germans by Americans. The author of the *CLICK* article was called upon by the chairman of the Patents Committee to testify at a hearing on H.J. Res. 32.Related Records

**14.19** Both before and after the creation of the standing Committee on Patents, certain petitions and memorials relating to patents were referred to select committees created to consider a particular document. There are, for example, records from the Select Committees on:

Eli Whitney's Cotton Gin Patent, 1811-13 (12A-F11.2)
Patents & Patent Laws, 1831-33 (22A-G25.5)
Petition on Patent Laws, 1833-35 (23A-G21.2)
Petition of Inventor of Steam Engine Device, 1833-35 (23A-G21.3)
Modification of Patent Laws, 1835-37 (24A-G22.3)
Claim of A.C. Goell for A Rocket Machine, 1845-47 (29A-G23.1)
Patenting Medicines, 1847-49 (30A-D26.4)
Colt's Patent and Other Bills, 1853-55 (33A-D21.4)

## Committee on Immigration and Naturalization (1893-1946)

### *Jurisdiction and History*

**14.20** Congress did little before 1860 to regulate immigration, which had traditionally been controlled by the colonies and then the states. After the Civil War, when the issues of States rights had been clarified and the need for a uniform immigration and naturalization system had become more apparent, the Federal Government began to build a system to regulate these areas. By 1893 the regulation and restriction of immigration and naturalization had become complex, and the standing Committee on Immigration and Naturalization was created in the House after having been a select committee for 4 years.

**14.21** Its jurisdiction included a variety of subjects: general revision of immigration and naturalization laws; supervision of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization; sites and buildings of immigration stations at U.S. ports of entry; pay and provisions for immigration officers and personnel; and management of resident aliens, including residence, deportation, readmission, and ownership of property.

**14.22** The jurisdiction included regulatory measures to restrict immigration, such as literacy tests, head taxes, racial and country-of-origin quotas, money-in-pocket tests, and professional and skills criteria. The committee reported legislation restricting immigration of certain classes of persons—such as Chinese, Japanese, contract laborers, anarchists, dependents, mental defectives, illiterates, paupers, and criminals—and naturalization legislation affecting classes of persons such as aliens who had served in the military during wartime, women married to U.S. citizens, and persons of particular nationalities. The complex regulatory system that was thus constructed was the source of a large number of requests for private legislation designed to provide relief for persons who begged personal exemption from the broad categories defined in the legislation.

*Records of the Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, 53d-79th Congresses (1893-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 21 vols. | 1893-1903, 1907-25<br>1935-46 | 53d-57th, 60th-68th<br>74th-79th |
| Docket Books | 11 vols. | 1893-1903, 1907-21 | 53d-57th, 60th-66th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 24 ft. | 1893-1946 | 53d-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 34 ft. | 1893-1905, 1907-19<br>1921-46 | 53d-58th, 60th-65th<br>67th-79th |
| Bill Files | 28 ft. | 1903-11, 1913-15<br>1919-46 | 58th-61st, 63d<br>66th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 86 ft. and 32 vols. (2 ft. 8 in.) | | |

**14.23** There are usually **minute books** for committee meetings before 1920 and after that date the minutes are found loose in the committee papers. In either format, the minutes document the legislation and other topics discussed at committee meetings, attendance at meetings, appointments to subcommittees and subjects referred to subcommittees, markup sessions and proposed amendments to legislation, and yea and nay votes. Most of the minutes contain copies of the bills and resolutions discussed in the meetings and some documentation relating to the administration of the committee. The minute book for 1943-44, for example, contains detailed transcripts of the organizational meetings at the beginning of the session (78A-F16.3). The **docket books** contain an entry for each piece of legislation referred to the committee and notes on the action taken in committee and on the House floor regarding each bill and resolution.

**14.24** More than half the **petitions and memorials** are from the earliest years of the committee, 1893-1907. Many petitions in the turn-of-the-century records favor restriction of immigration (53A-H12.1, 54A-H12.1, 55A-H7.2, 57A-H8.2, 59A-H8.2), the largest number being from the 55th Congress, 1897-99 (6 ft.). Organizations such as the Patriotic Order of Sons of America and the Junior Order of United American Mechanics urged the passage of tougher immigration restrictions, while the Union of the German Roman Catholic Societies of the State of New York, the North American Gymnastic Union, the Helvetia Society, the German Veteran's Club, and others protested the existing restrictions. The endorsement of a typical pro-restriction petition reads:

> The undersigned residents of believing that a large majority of the American people demand a more rigid restriction of immigration to protect American Citi-

> zenship and the Working Men now in this country; and feeling that the present immigration laws are inadequate and largely responsible for the hard times frequently attributed to other causes, respectfully petition you to vote for, and use your influence and efforts to secure the passage . . . [of] a bill similar to that passed by the 54th Congress and vetoed by President Cleveland.
>
> Your constituents, irrespective of birth, race or nationality, will heartily approve of your action in this direction. (55A-H7.2)

**14.25** The more emphatic petitions state the same sentiments more curtly:

> Resolutions of the State Council of Ohio, Junior Order of United American Mechanics urging passage of laws to prevent the landing on our shores of the vicious, lawless, pauperized, and anarchistic elements of foreign countries. (57A-H8.2)

**14.26** Although the bulk of the petitions and memorials favor restrictions, the petition files also contain evidence of friendly attitudes toward the new immigrants. The records of the 53d Congress (1893-95) contain petitions for the repeal of the Chinese-exclusion, or "Greary," laws (53A-H12.3). In 1904 the United Chinese Society of Honolulu sent Congress a thoroughly reasoned document petitioning against the Chinese-exclusion laws, and the Delaware State Grange petitioned Congress asking for special consideration of the naturalization case of Yan Phou Lee, a "Chinaman" and a lecturer (58A-H7.2). During the same Congress, five circuit court judges from Chicago circulated a petition for the repeal of parts of the immigration law that permitted the abuse of certain immigrants (58A-H7.1).

**14.27** The restriction sentiment remained strong through the early decades of the new century. Large numbers of petitions were received on the Burnett-Dillingham bill in 1911-13, which provided for immigration restrictions (62A-H10.2, 63A-H8.1, 2 ft.), and on the Johnson restriction bills, H.R. 101 and H.R. 6540, of 1923-25 (68A-H6.1, 3 ft.). Other subjects of petitions included quotas (69A-H3.1, 70A-H3.4, 71A-H5.1), deportation of aliens (66A-H7.3, 69A-H3.3, 70A-H3.2, 74A-H4.1), a proposed temporary suspension of immigration (66A-H7.6), and an investigation of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization (66A-H7.5). Since about 1930, some of the petitions and memorials referred to the committee have been preserved in the committee papers or bill files.

**14.28** The early **committee papers** (1893-1919) include correspondence on immigration restrictions to protect domestic labor (53A-F17.1), on ports of entry and restrictions on idiots and the insane (56A-F13.1), and on Chinese exclusion (57A-F13.2). The papers also include transcripts of hearings on immigration (57A-F13.3) and naturalization (60A-F13.3), and claims resulting from the Mexican Insurrection of 1911 (62A-F15.1), and copies of printed bills, hearings, reports, and documents.

**14.29** After World War I, committee papers contain correspondence files and a large number of committee hearings and prints, some of which may be rare. The files of the 78th and 79th Congresses contain the Attorney General's suspension of deportation reports on persons specified under the Immigration Acts of 1917 and 1940 (78A-F16.1, 79A-F16.1, 13 ft.).

**14.30** The **bill files** contain copies of bills and resolutions, committee reports, committee prints and printed hearings, correspondence, and transcripts of executive session hearings. In many cases they also contain petitions and memorials that refer specifically to legislation. The bill files are arranged numerically under each bill or resolution type: House bills, House resolutions, then Senate bills, and Senate resolutions. Private legislation and public legislation are filed together.

**14.31** The earliest bill files are thin and incomplete, but after about 1920 they contain folders on most or all of the bills and resolutions referred to the committee. The records of the later Congresses—after about 1930—contain transcripts of hearings on a large percentage of the bills and resolutions. For example, the bill files of 1935-36 (74A-D15, 20 in.) contain transcripts of unpublished hearings on subjects such as the protection of American actors and artists by restricting admission of foreign competition and the exemption from an entry fee of Boy Scouts entering the country to attend an international jamboree, and a bill to alter the laws regarding alien registration, deportation, and national quotas. In all, 27 of the 38 hearings held during the 74th Congress were not printed, but they are preserved in the bill files. Bill files for later Congresses appear to be at least as complete as those of the 74th.Related Records

**14.32** Before the establishment of the standing Committee on Immigration and Naturalization, petitions and memorials relating to these subjects were generally referred to the Judiciary Committee or to select committees. There are records from the Select Committees on:

Naturalization Laws, 1801-3 (7A-F4.1)
Naturalization Laws, 1803-5 (8A-F3)
Naturalization Laws, 1837-39 (25A-G24.2)
Immigration, 1863-65 (38A-G25.3)
Immigration of Contract Laborers, 1887-89 (50A-H33.1)
Immigration, 1889-91 (51A-H27, 51A-F46)
Immigration, 1891-93 (52A-H28, 52A-F50)

## Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business (1795-1868)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**14.33** The Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business monitored the business of Congress during its early years when unfinished business was terminated at the end of each session, and it recommended procedures to accomplish the work of Congress leaving as little unfinished business as possible. The committee continued to exist long after its function had become obsolete. In 1868 the duties relating to revision of laws were transferred to the Committee on Revision of Laws, where they remained until that committee was incorporated into the Judiciary Committee in 1947. In 1975 the House Office of the Law Revision Counsel was created to work in close cooperation with the Judiciary Committee.

### *Records of the Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business, 4th-40th Congresses (1795-1868)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | <1 in. | 1839-41 | 26th |
| Comm. Papers | <1 in. | 1821-23, 1839-41 | 17th, 26th |
| TOTAL: | <2 in. | | |

**14.34** The **committee papers** contain two manuscript reports (17A-C24) listing the business remaining at the end of the 1st and 2d sessions of the 17th Congress, and a report from the 2d session of the 26th Congress (1839-41) that comments on the usefulness of extending the session in order to finish certain business (26A-D24). The **petitions and memorials** contain a petition from "old soldiers and soldiers wives and children," complaining that their claims have not been acted upon for several sessions of Congress and asking that the present session of Congress be extended a few days to deal with claims (26A-G20.1).

### *Related Records*

**14.35** Related records are filed as committee papers of Select Committees on the Business of the House of Representatives between 1809 and 1825 (11A-C9.1, 12A-C11.1, 13A-D15.1, 14A-C17.1, 15A-D16.1, 18A-C20.2). The records of several of these select committees include documents of joint committees, such as an April 9, 1816, report from the "Joint Committee appointed to inquire into the Expediency of certain alterations of the mode of transacting the business of Congress" (14A-C17.1).

## Committee on Revision of Laws (1868-1946)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**14.36** The Committee on Revision of Laws was established in 1868 after having been a select committee for several years. Its jurisdiction included the revision and codification of the statutes of the United States. When the committee was established, it replaced the old Committee on Revisal and Unfinished Business (1795-1868).

**14.37** The committee reported bills providing for the revision and codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States. Occasionally, bills concerning changes in law rather than revision and codification were referred to the committee, such as the transfer of certain bureaus from one executive department to another.

*Records of the Committee on Revision of Laws, 40th-79th Congresses (1868-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 5 vols. | 1887-95, 1911-15 | 50th-53d, 62d-63d |
| Docket Books | 6 vols. | 1877-79, 1883-85<br>1887-89, 1891-93<br>1911-15 | 45th, 48th<br>50th, 52d<br>62d-63d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1883-85, 1893-95<br>1911-13 | 48th, 53d<br>62d |
| Comm. Papers | 12 in. | 1875-77, 1883-85<br>1911-13, 1923-25<br>1929-31, 1939-43 | 44th, 48th<br>62d, 68th<br>71st, 76th-77th |
| Bill Files | 2 in. | 1921-23, 1925-27 | 67th, 69th |

TOTAL: 1 ft., 3 in. and 11 vols. (11 in.)

**14.38** The committee was not one of the most active and during most of its history little legislation was referred to it. The **minute books** and **docket books** reflect the lack of activity; none of the minute books includes minutes for more than five meetings per Congress. The minutes for the 51st Congress (1889-91) include only two meetings, and the major business conducted at the organizational meeting was the passage of a resolution providing that the committee would meet only on the call of the chairman.

**14.39** The **petitions and memorials** referred to this committee include prayers concerning government employment of Civil War veterans (1883-85), support for Coxey's army and pleas to give work to the idle through public works (1893-95), and concern from several chambers of commerce over the corporation tax (1911-13).

**14.40** The **committee papers** include copies of bills and resolutions as well as printed copies of several codifications. One file (44A-F34) contains correspondence with executive branch departments regarding proposed changes and corrections in the law. The **bill files** consist of printed bills, reports, and hearings.

## Committee on Freedmen's Affairs (1866-75)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**14.41** The Select Committee on Freedmen's Affairs was established on December 6, 1865, with the mandate that "so much of the President's message as relates to freedmen shall be referred; and all reports and papers concerning freedmen shall be referred to them, with the liberty to report by bill or otherwise."[1] At the opening of the second session of the same Congress (39th), the committee was continued as a standing committee with the same jurisdiction. At the opening of the 44th Congress (1875), Representative J. G. Blaine observed that the recent amendments to the Constitution ensured "that there is no longer any distinction between American citizens; that we are all equal before the law; and that all legislation respecting the rights of any person should go through the regular standing committees."[2] The committee was therefore omitted from the committee roster, and its jurisdiction was returned to other committees, in large part to the Judiciary Committee.

*Records of the Committee on Freedmen's Affairs, 39th-43d Congresses (1866-75)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 1 vol. | 1867-69, 1871-73 | 40th, 42d |
| Docket Books | 1 vol. | 1871-73 | 42d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 in. | 1865-69 | 39th-40th |
| Comm. Papers | 2 in. | 1865-69 | 39th-40th |

TOTAL: 4 in. and 2 vols. (2 in.)

**14.42** The **minute** and **docket books** for this committee contain little documentation. The minutes from December 1867 to December 1868 were kept on loose paper and are filed with the committee papers (40A-G10). The **petitions and memorials** deal with subjects such as the African Colonization Society, relief for the ravaged Southern States, and continuation of the Freedmen's Bureau.

**14.43** The **committee papers** consist of bills, resolutions, and communications referred to the committee, and a small amount of correspondence. The 39th Congress records contain a copy of correspondence between the Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau and the Governor of South Carolina concerning suffering in that State because of food shortages and the need for relief (39A-F10). The 40th Congress file contains letters and other documents relating to the conditions of freedmen in the States of Texas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Virginia, and North Carolina (40A-F10).

**14.44** Records relating to certain affairs of the Freedman's Savings and Trust Company are filed with those of the Committee on Banking and Currency (see Chapter 4), and records relating to certain affairs of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands are filed with those of the Committee on Education and Labor (see Chapter 9). There is a minute book of the Committee on Education and Labor (41A-F8.3, 90 pages) that documents an 1870 congressional investigation of charges against Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

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[1] *Congressional Globe* 39th Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 6, 1865, p. 14.

[2] *Congressional Globe* 44th Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 15, 1875, p. 229.

## Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic (1893-1927)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**14.45** The Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic was made a standing committee in 1893 (53d Congress) after having been a select committee since 1879 (46th Congress). Its jurisdiction covered subjects relating to alcoholic liquor traffic, including the manufacture, distribution, and sale of intoxicating beverages in the States, Territories, and Government-owned buildings and land such as the District of Columbia, Indian reservations, and military bases. It was abolished in 1927 (70th Congress).

### *Records of the select and standing Committees on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, 46th-69th Congresses (1879-1927)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 2 vols. | 1889-93 | 51st-52d (select) |
| Docket Books | 3 vols. | 1881-93 | 47th-52d (select) |
| Petitions & Mem. | 22 in. | 1879-83, 1885-97<br>1907-9 | 46th-47th, 49th-54th<br>60th |
| Comm. Papers | 4 in. | 1879-85, 1889-95<br>1893-95, 1907-9<br>1925-27 | 46th-48th, 51st<br>53d, 60th<br>69th |
| Bill Files | 1 in. | 1907-9 | 60th |
| TOTAL: | 2 ft., 3 in. and 5 vols. (5 in.) | | |

**14.46** The **petition and memorial** files contain petitions requesting the appointment of a commission to study alcoholic traffic and praying for prohibition of the manufacture, sale, and distribution through interstate commerce of alcohol in the United States and in various locations under federal authority and its export to certain countries.

**14.47** The **committee papers** are thin and usually consist of printed bills, resolutions, and committee reports. Records of the 69th Congresses contain a transcript of an unprinted hearing (69A-F2). The **bill file** for the 60th Congress contains printed hearings on H.R. 22007, H.R. 12405, and H.R. 12406.

**14.48** Additional records on alcoholic liquor traffic may be found in the records of the Judiciary Committee (particularly paras. 14.76-14.77), which received petitions and memorials and held hearings on the subject, both before and during the life of the Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic.

## Committee on Woman Suffrage (1917-27)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**14.49** The Committee on Woman Suffrage was created in 1917 and continued to exist until 1927, when it was abolished during the 70th Congress. The resolution to establish the committee gave it jurisdiction over all proposed legislation touching the subject of woman suffrage, a subject that had been in the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee.

**14.50** During the debate on the creation of the committee, proponents of the new committee argued that woman suffrage was an important issue and that it deserved the exclusive attention of a committee favorable to its passage. Those opposed to it noted that "the evident purpose . . . is to create a committee that will report a resolution proposing woman suffrage" and that "when it shall have brought that resolution before the body its functions will be ended, and it can be dismissed as a useless thing."[3] Both analyses were essentially correct, for the committee reported a total of five pieces of legislation; its last report was on H.J. Res. 1, 66th Congress (1919), which became the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. The committee continued until 1927 even though its function had ceased after the ratification of the woman suffrage amendment in 1920.

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[3] *Congressional Record*, 65th Cong., 1st sess., Sept. 24, 1917, pp. 7370-74.

*Records of the Committee on Woman Suffrage, 65th-69th Congresses (1917-27)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 1 vol. | 1919-21 | 66th |
| Docket Books | 1 vol. | 1919-21 | 66th |
| TOTAL: 2 vols. (2 in.) | | | |

**14.51** The only records that have been preserved are a **minute book** and a **docket book** from the 66th congress. These volumes record bills, resolutions, and petitions and memorials that were referred to the committee, and committee action on these documents.

**14.52** For additional records relating to woman suffrage, see the records of the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee held hearings on woman suffrage as early as the 43d Congress (1873-75) and in every Congress between the 54th and the 66th (1895-1921). The Judiciary Committee records also contain a large number of petitions and memorials on the subject (see para. 13.77).

## Committee on the Judiciary (1813-1969)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**14.53** The standing Committee on the Judiciary was established on June 3, 1813, to take into consideration matters "touching judicial proceedings." In 1880 the rule defining its jurisdiction was revised to read "judicial proceedings, civil and criminal law," and this remained the formal definition of the jurisdiction of the committee until the reorganization of Congress in 1946. Nevertheless, a wide range of subjects was referred to it. During its first 133 years, the committee reported legislation concerning the jurisdiction of the courts; local courts in the District of Columbia, territories, and insular possessions; charges against judges; criminals, crimes, penalties, and extradition; counterfeiting, espionage, and sedition; the Department of Justice; and national penitentiaries. It also reported on revisions of U.S. statutes and the code of law of the District of Columbia.

**14.54** It reported legislation relating to the office of the President and to Members of Congress, the refusal of public officers to execute acts of Congress, Government contracts, and impeachment. It was responsible for legislation affecting the organization of the Federal Government or the government of a territory and for settling State and Territorial boundary disputes.

**14.55** It exercised jurisdiction over the incorporation of certain organizations by the Federal Government and Federal control of corporations; the relationships between organized labor, the courts, and corporations; and the investigation and regulation of trusts and monopolies.

**14.56** It dealt with questions concerning the power of Congress under the Constitution to affect certain aspects of American life as well as questions of law affecting subjects in the jurisdiction of other committees. It examined the constitutionality of bills pending in the House and reported joint resolutions proposing amendments to the Constitution.

**14.57** The committee had broad jurisdiction over matters affecting the civil and legal rights of citizens: the rights of citizens under treaties; the removal of political disabilities imposed under the 14th Amendment; woman suffrage and other rights and privileges of women; laws relating to marriage, divorce, and polygamy; the general study of criminals, paupers, defectives, and juveniles; bankruptcy; and alcoholic liquor traffic and prohibition.

**14.58** It reported on general legislation concerning claims against the Government; war claims, Territorial and District of Columbia claims; claims between States; claims of States against the United States; international claims; pensioners' oaths and fraudulent claims; and international copyright and patent appeals. It also reported legislation on subjects such as the national anthem, desecration of the flag, and national holidays and celebrations.

**14.59** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the Judiciary Committee absorbed the jurisdictions of the Committees on Patents (created 1837), Revision of Laws (created 1868), Immigration and Naturalization (created 1893), Claims (created 1794), and War Claims (created 1883). The new formal jurisdiction, as stated in House rules, included the following subjects:

> (a) judicial proceedings, civil and criminal generally; (b)apportionment of Representatives; (c) bankruptcy, mutiny, espionage, and counterfeiting; (d) civil liberties; (e) constitutional amend-ments; (f) federal courts and judges; (g) holidays and celebrations; (h) immigration and

naturalization; (i) interstate compacts generally; (j) local courts in the territories and possessions; (k) measures relating to claims against the United States; (l) meeting of Congress, attendance of members and their acceptance of incompatible offices; (m) national penitentiaries; (n) the Patent Office; (o) patents, copyrights, and trademarks; (p) Presidential succession; (q) protection of trade and commerce against unlawful restraints and monopolies; (r) revision and codification of the statutes of the United States; and, (s) state and territorial boundary lines.[4]

### *Records of the Committee on the Judiciary, 13th-79th Congresses (1813-1946)**

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 47 vols. | 1857-1946 | 35th-79th |
| Docket Books | 54 vols. | 1827-1913 | 20th-62d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 104 ft. | 1813-1946 | 13th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 33 ft. | 1813-1911, 1915-46 | 13th-61st, 64th-79th |
| Bill Files | 155 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |
| TOTAL: 292 ft. and 101 vols. (8 ft., 5 in.) | | | |

*See continuation table for 80th-90th Congresses after para. 14.86.

**14.60** The **minute books** of the House Judiciary Committee are among the most complete and thorough of any committee of Congress. They contain a daily record of the activity in meetings of the full committee, and, in some cases, they include the meetings of subcommittees. They document attendance at meetings, legislation considered, amendments and proposed amendments to legislation, roll-call votes, committee resolutions, the appointment of subcommittee members, and committee decisionmaking on matters such as the selection of witnesses to testify at committee hearings.

**14.61** Minute books are useful because they provide background for documents found in the other records series. The minute book for the 40th and 41st Congresses (1867-71), for instance, provides a means for following the complex activities of the committee during this active period following the Civil War. The minutes (40A-F13.5, 420 pages) document the daily activities of the committee relating to the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson; the impeachment of Richard Busteed, Judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Alabama; a subcommittee investigation into affairs in the State of Maryland; a subcommittee investigation into conditions in Delaware; the investigation of the Panoche Grande land title case; and the receipt, consideration, markup, and reporting of legislation.

**14.62** The **docket books** generally list the petitions, memorials, bills, resolutions, and other documents referred to the committee, along with notes on committee activity on the documents. The earliest volume (1827-43) contains only very simple entries indicating the documents referred in chronological order. After the 30th Congress (1847-49), an attempt was made in some of the docket books to record the documents in alphabetical order rather than chronologically by date of referral. The alphabetical ordering is useful for research in claims or other private legislation that may be identified by individuals' names, but it complicates research in public legislation that is not identified by proper names.

**14.63** After the 62d Congress (1911-13) there are no docket books in the records of this committee, but the information that was contained in them can be found in the *Committee Calendars.*

**14.64** **Petitions and memorials** make up a large proportion of the early committee documentation—over 65 percent of the pre-1900 records. For the most part, they consist of four types of documents.

**14.65** The first type of petition sought to present a case to Congress in order to obtain legislation of a private nature. Some petitions, particularly those stating claims against the Government, requesting action on an invention patent, or concerning immigration or naturalization, include an inch or more of records that present explanation and evidence supporting the prayer of the petitioner. This type of petition often resulted in private bills or resolutions. The petition and memorial files of most Congresses until after the Civil War contain petitions for claims. Most of the claims concern routine reimbursement of persons harmed by Government activities; however, the records also contain extraordinary documents, such as the claim of Liliuokalani for the restitution of certain crown property in Hawaii (59A-H14.2).

**14.66** A second type consists of documents submitted by one individual or a small group of individuals from a common location or sharing common interests and praying for congressional action to resolve a local or otherwise narrow public problem, such as a complaint about a local official or a request for the creation of a judicial district.

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[4] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress,* H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 347.

**14.67** A third type of petition prays for action to resolve problems of national scope by means of legislation or constitutional amendment. Some national subjects, such as slavery and woman suffrage, elicited large numbers of petitions from groups of citizens in various parts of the country. Organized movements to collect signatures often made use of printed petition blanks on which signatures were collected. Large numbers of these signed petition forms were subsequently brought together and glued end-to-end, forming impressive roll petitions to be presented to Congress. Nineteenth-century roll petitions in Judiciary Committee records may be as large as 6 inches in diameter and contain more than 50,000 signatures.

**14.68** The fourth type of document consists of resolutions from State legislatures that indicate a preference on certain national issues, such as immigration policy, and pray for legislation to facilitate the preferred policy.

**14.69** During the earliest period (1813-69), a number of subjects appear regularly: an improved system of bankruptcy law, revisions in patent laws, revisions in immigration and naturalization laws, congressional action creating or changing judicial districts in States or Territories or increasing the pay of judicial officers, claims of individuals for relief, prayers for release from judicial judgments, and petitions relating to specific patents.

**14.70** Periodically, particular subjects elicited large volumes of petitions. Some of the subjects remained current for several decades while others faded into obscurity after a brief period. For instance, although petitions praying for bankruptcy legislation appear in small numbers in the records of many Congresses, a prolonged depression elicited hundreds of bankruptcy petitions (27A-G10.3) between 1841 and 1843. Other topics that appeared briefly during the mid-19th century were the annexation of Canada (28A-G10.4), the Crittenden Compromise (36A-G10.3, 37A-G7.8), the admission of West Virginia to statehood (37A-G7.4), an 8-hour workday (39A-H14.6), and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson (39A-H14.7, 40A-H10.2). Petitions to abolish the offices of chaplains in Congress and in the armed services appear regularly in the records between the 28th and 35th Congresses (1843-58).

**14.71** Throughout the period before the Civil War, petitions and memorials relating to the slavery question appear in many records of Congress. Between 1836 and 1844, the 21st rule of the House (the so-called gag rule) provided that no petition relating to the abolition of slavery would be entertained in any way; therefore, all such petitions and memorials received during that period were tabled. During this period, hundreds of petitions (5 ft.) relating to the abolition of slavery, slavery in the District of Columbia, fugitive slave laws and fugitive slaves, the admission of slave states, slavery in the Territories, African colonization, and repeal of the 21st rule were tabled.

**14.72** From the early 1840's until the end of the Civil War, petitions relating to the slavery issue appear in the records of the Judiciary Committee. The earliest petitions referred to the committee toward the end of the era of the gag rule protest the rule itself. They maintain that the rule impaired the constitutional right of the people to petition Congress for a redress of grievances. Other petitions approach the slavery issue more directly:

> The subscribers, legal voters of the town of Hudson, in the county of Summitt & State of Ohio, respectfully pray that the proper steps may be made for the repeal of all laws, & the alteration of all constitutional provisions, by which the people of the Free States, the Federal Government, or the Nation, are in any way implicated or bound to contenance, protect, or in any manner aid in supporting or continuing the institution of slavery or in keeping human beings in a state of slavery.
>
> [69 signatures, Dec. 15, 1841] (27A-G10.7)

**14.73** Other petitions and memorials concern many aspects of the slavery issue: Abolition of slavery (28A-G10.2, 30A-G9.2, 32A-G10.3, 36A-G10.5, 37A-G7.2, 38A-G10.1), repeal of the fugitive slave laws (28A-G10.12, 32A-G10.6, 33A-G10.10, 37A-G7.11), protection of free colored persons (33A-G10.8), slave trade (29A-G8.9, 33A-G10.1, 36A-G10.8), slavery in the District of Columbia (36A-G10.6), and freeing slaves through purchase (36A-G10.7). Slavery-related petitions reflect the disparate attitudes in the Nation. The records of the 37th Congress (1861-62), for instance, contain petitions praying for the abolition of slavery (37A-G7.1, 37A-G7.2), instructing Congress to "drop the negro question and attend to the business of the country" (37A-G7.3), praying for repeal of the fugitive slave laws (37A-G7.4), and suggesting creative solutions such as the reduction of South Carolina, Georgia, and part of Florida to Territorial status to be colonized by freed blacks (37A-G7.15).

**14.74** After the issue of slavery was laid to rest, the civil and legal rights of blacks became the subject of another set of petitions beginning around 1900. Anti-lynching petitions begin to appear in the 56th Congress (1899-1900) and continue through the 78th (1943-44).

**14.75** After the Civil War, the subjects of woman suffrage and prohibition replaced slavery as major national issues. Concern for the protection and rights of women was also expressed in petitions condemning polygamy (45A-H11.4, 47A-H11.2, 48A-H12.1, 49A-H11.4, 56A-H13.4, 57A-H14.4, 58A-H12.7, 60A-H19.1, 64A-H13.4, 65A-H8.10), praying to raise the age of consent of girls in the District of Columbia (54A-H12.1, 55A-H12.10), and praying for better divorce laws (48A-H12.4, 56A-H13.4) and for more adequate protection of women and girls (50A-H13.5). During the 65th and 66th Congresses (1917-20), petitions relating to woman suffrage were referred to the standing Committee on Woman Suffrage.

**14.76** The problems associated with the adoption of a national policy regarding alcoholic liquor constituted a continuing subject of petitions both before and after the passage of the 18th Amendment. There are petitions and memorials relating in some way to the alcohol issue in the records of the Judiciary Committee in nearly every Congress between the 42d and the 79th. During part of this period, petitions and memorials relating to alcohol were referred to the select and standing Committees on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic, which existed between the 46th and 69th Congresses (1879-1927).

**14.77** The Judiciary Committee petitions include demands for a constitutional amendment to prohibit the manufacture, sale, or transportation of alcohol (42A-H8.8, 43A-H8.4, 50A-H13.2, 52A-H11.2, 58A-H12.5, 62A-H17.1, 64A-H13.5) and proposals for legislation to appoint a commission to study alcoholic liquor traffic (42A-H8.4, 43A-H8.1, 44A-H8.1, 45A-H11.1). The records of the 60th Congress (1907-9) contain anti-prohibition protests from bottlers, brewers, distillers, and the German-American Alliance and related organizations (60A-H19.2 and H19.3). The records of the 42d Congress (1871-73) contain petitions suggesting a constitutional amendment to provide that no persons addicted to alcoholic liquors would be eligible to hold a Federal office (42A-H8.3). After the passage of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, the committee continued to receive alcohol-related petitions proposing to alter the prohibition amendment and the enforcement provisions of the Volstead Act (66A-H11.16, 67A-H10.6, 68A-H10.3, 70A-H5.2, 71A-H9.5, 72A-H8.3). After the repeal of Prohibition in 1933 by the 21st Amendment, the committee received petitions calling for legislation to regulate interstate trade in alcohol (77A-H9.1, 78A-H9.20) and to prohibit the advertisement of alcoholic beverages by radio (76A-F13.1). As late as the 78th Congress (1943-44), the committee records include petitions (78A-H9.20, 16 ft.) evenly divided between those for and against a national policy on prohibition.

**14.78** Petitions for a constitutional amendment to recognize God as the Supreme Authority appeared during the period between the 39th (1865) and 45th (1878) Congresses. Other subjects that elicited large numbers of petitions were the direct election of senators (43A-H8.6, 50A-H13.3, 51A-H11.1, 52A-H11.4, 54A-H16.5, 60A-H19.1, 61A-H16.9), Sunday rest laws (50A-H13.6, 51A-H11.7, 55A-H12.12), various ways to regulate and restrict immigration and the activities of aliens (53A-H16.3, 53A-H16.5, 57A-H14.2), anti-injunction legislation (57A-H14.2, 59A-H14.13, 60A-H19.14), interstate gambling over telephone lines (55A-H12.7, 58A-H12.8), and the removal of the U.S. district court from Keokuk to Burlington, IA (43A-H8.8).

**14.79** After 1920 petitioner's concerns again shifted and new subjects begin to appear: unemployment (71A-H9.5, 79A-H9.11), fair employment (78A-H9), fair trade (75A-H8.1, 77A-H9.7), birth control (73A-H10.4), un-American activities (74A-H8.4, 75A-H8.10), communism and propaganda (73A-H10.5), sedition and aliens (66A-H11.19, 76A-H13.2), the Hatch Act (76A-H13.9), antitrust laws and the investigation of monopolies (76A-H13.10), poll taxes (76A-H13.12, 79A-H9.12), an equal rights amendment to the Constitution (68A-H10.2, 76A-H13.6, 77A-H9.6, 78A-H9.6), conscription and conscientious objection (65A-H8.6, 79A-H9.5), and administrative procedures (79A-H9.1).

**14.80** The **committee papers** files average less than 3 inches per Congress during the 19th century and 8 inches per Congress between 1900 and 1946, except where they are increased by special collections of documents, such as material collected for a study of international bankruptcy laws (55A-F19.1, 6 ft.); systematic bill file collections in the records of the 56th and 57th Congresses, 1901-4 (28 in. and 14 in.); an anti-injunction legislation correspondence file (59A-F21.2, 16 in.); a general correspondence file (60A-F30.2, 7 in.); and correspondence and complaints regarding courts and officers of courts (72A-F18.2, 18 in.).

**14.81** Committee papers generally contain correspondence, reports, and other documents relating to the subjects in the petition and memorial files or to other subjects in the committee's jurisdiction. There are reports and correspondence relating to claims in the records of most Congresses between the 17th and 36th (1821-61), and records relating to courts, judicial districts, judges, and the pay of various court officials in most Congresses between the 13th and 58th (1813-1905). Other subjects that appear include the trial of Jefferson Davis for treason (39A-F13.10); civil and legal rights (43A-F14.1, 45A-F18.2), especially of freedmen (39A-F13.2); anti-lynching legislation (75A-F22.1); constitutional amendments concerning polygamy (56A-F19.1) and legal tender paper money (48A-F16.1); the trial of Susan B. Anthony for illegal voting (42A-F14.14); the meat-packing industry (64A-F20.1); woman suffrage (39A-F13.11, 55A-F19.4, 64A-F20.4); and anti-injunction legislation (58A-F19.1, 59A-F21.2).

**14.82** The committee papers also contain records relating to investigations of the governments of Maryland and Delaware (40A-F13.1), the Pacific railroads (44A-F19.1), and the Kansas Pacific Railroad (50A-F18.3).

**14.83** **Bill files** for the Judiciary Committee contain correspondence, hearings, reports, and other documents related to particular bills. Material on certain private bills and resolutions considered before the establishment of a systematic collection of bill files in 1903, may be found in the accompanying papers collection for the 39th through 57th Congresses (see Chapter 24).

**14.84** The average size of the series increased over time from less than 3 feet per Congress before 1919 to about 7 feet between 1919 and 1934 and to about 12 feet per Congress between 1935 and 1946. The records of the 58th (1903-4), 62d-63d (1911-14), and 72d (1931-32) Congresses are small and incomplete, less than 10 inches each.

**14.85** The files for each Congress are arranged by type of legislation: House bills, House resolutions, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and Senate concurrent resolutions—and thereunder by bill or resolution number. The bill files for each Congress vary in completeness, and the individual bill files vary in the type of material preserved. A typical file contains correspondence related to the bill, copies of the original bill or resolution and amendments to it, copies of printed hearings, reports, and, occasionally, transcripts of unpublished public or executive session hearings. Sometimes petitions and memorials concerning the legislation are included in the bill file rather than in the petition and memorial series.

**14.86** The bill files generally contain bills to amend parts of the judicial code, to establish judicial districts, to appoint additional judges, to amend practice and procedure in Federal courts, and to confer jurisdiction. They generally contain files on joint resolutions to amend the Constitution in various ways.

***Records of the Committee on the Judiciary, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 7 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 24 ft. | 1947-60, 1963-68 | 80th-86th, 88th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 573 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 1,298 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 2,025 ft. | | |

*See table after para. 14.59 for earlier records, 13th-79th Congresses.

**14.87** The records of the committee during this period are generally arranged by Congress and thereunder in four categories: committee papers, bill files, petitions and memorials, and minutes. The records in the first two categories, however, are much more voluminous than those created before 1947 and are broken down into subcategories, primarily by full committee or subcommittee of referral. The minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings are generally unbound and are filed along with other committee papers.

**14.88** There are full committee general correspondence files for the 80th-84th, 88th, and 89th Congresses. There are **minute books** of the full committee for the 80th-84th and 87th Congresses, and collections of minutes from the standing subcommittees (see below) for the 85th through 90th Congresses. The minute books of the full committee not currently at the National Archives are in the custody of the committee. A collection of subpoenas issued by the committee between the 84th and 91st Congresses is filed with the 91st Congress committee papers.

**14.89** The **petition and memorial** files from this period document public opinion and concern over civil rights, displaced persons, income tax, the electoral vote for the District of Columbia, school prayer, the Bricker Amendment, anti-trust legislation, submerged lands, and the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act. Also included are recommendations for the impeachment of certain public officials. Examples of these include the large number of petitions to impeach Earl Warren and other Justices of the Supreme Court (86A-H9.3). Some petitions submitting claims such as a 1958 petition from members of the Bolo Battalion for recognition of its guerrilla activities in the Phillipines during World War II (86A-H9.1) are also found among these records. The majority of such claim petitions, however, are in the bill files of the Claims Subcommittee (see para. 14.102).

**14.90** The petition and memorial files and constituent mail on popular issues often do not contain all of the material received by Congress. Many topics, such as school busing, school prayer, and Constitutional amendments, generated huge amounts of mail, much of it on pre-printed postcards or form letters. In some cases these were measured and sampled to provide documentation of citizen interest and opinion. A massive public opinion campaign was waged over the issues of prayer in public schools. The records of the 88th Congress (1963-64) include over 25 feet of petitions and memorials and letters on this emotional subject. The records are arranged by type and opinion: petitions supporting the right to have prayer in school (7 ft.) and against school prayer (6 in.); and correspondence for (12 feet) and against prayer in school (7 ft.).

**14.91** Records of the committee that do not fit into the bill file or petition and memorial series are included in the catchall series **committee papers**. It may contain correspondence; communications and reports from the President, executive agencies, and nongovernment organizations incorporated by Congress; transcripts of public and executive session hearings; minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings; documents collected as evidence or as research material; committee administrative and financial records, memorandums, directives, working papers, and research material; subpoenas; speech files; clipping files; and other miscellaneous committee records.

**14.92** Committee papers are arranged, for each Congress, under the full committee or the subcommittee of referral. Throughout most of the period under consideration, the committee had five standing subcommittees, designated by numbers. Each standing subcommittee had a special jurisdiction within the committee as follows:

| Name | Special Jurisdiction |
|---|---|
| Subcommittee #1 | Immigration and naturalization |
| Subcommittee #2 | Claims |
| Subcommittee #3 | Patents, trademarks, copyrights, revision of laws |
| Subcommittee #4 | Bankruptcy and reorganization |
| Subcommittee #5 | Antitrust |

**14.93** In addition to the standing subcommittees, special subcommittees were appointed for limited periods to deal with specific problems.

**14.94** **Committee papers** of the full committee (180 ft.) largely consist of executive communications, primarily the annual reports and special reports of agencies of the Federal Government and the annual reports of federally incorporated bodies that fall under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary Committee. Many of the executive communications for this period are special reports on the administration of the Federal Tort Claims Act by the Post Office, Defense, and Interior Departments, the Veterans Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration, and other agencies. Committee calendars, which are generally included in the records of the committee after 1946, list all executive communications referred to the committee.

**14.95** The records of **Subcommittee #1** on immigration and naturalization (145 ft.), contain an alphabetical subcommittee correspondence file and a chronological reading file for most Congresses. The bulk of the records are case files concerning individuals requesting adjustments to their immigration status under certain sections of immigration acts—suspension of deportations, displaced persons, exclusion of certain aliens and admission of others in non-immigrant status, and various types of refugee problems. Sets of minutes of committee meetings include transcripts of hearings, memorandums, copies of legislation, and other pertinent material not included in the minutes found in the full committee records.

**14.96** The activities of **Subcommittee #2** on claims are documented by the collections of minutes of subcommittee meetings in the full committee files and by the series of claims bill files. The full committee files contain the minutes of meetings of **Subcommittee #3** for the 84th-90th Congresses (1955-68) and **Subcommittee #4** for the 86th-90th Congresses (1959-68). Files on bills referred to these subcommittees are filed in the public bill file series.

**14.97** The records for **Subcommittee #5** on antitrust and monopolies (193 ft.) are generally organized according to specific investigations or projects and not strictly by Congress. The subcommittee was established during the 81st Congress (1949-50) as the Subcommittee to Study Monopoly Power, and during the 82d Congress it formally became known as Subcommittee #5 with special jurisdiction over antitrust matters.

**14.98** Records for **Subcommittee #5** for the 81st Congress (24 ft.) consist of correspondence, memorandums, hearings, reports, and related papers pertaining to studies on iron and steel, newsprint, amendments to the Sherman and Clayton Antitrust Acts, and antitrust proceedings terminated by consent judgments or pleas of nolo contendere. Records of the 82d Congress (35 ft.) pertain to aluminum, bank mergers, mobilization problems, oil, newsprint, organized baseball, and resale price. Similar collections for the 84th, 85th, and 86th Congresses (1955-60) include studies on oil pipelines, excise taxes, professional sports, AT&T, commercial aviation, shipping, the television industry, and government advisory groups, consultants, and WOCs (without compensation employees). A multi-Congress set of records for the 85th-90th Congresses, 1957-68, includes records pertaining to bank mergers, insurance, joint ventures, foreign commerce and diamonds, newspapers, and computers (57 ft.).

**14.99** There are records for the following **Special Subcommittees**:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **To Investigate Immigration and Naturalization Problems** | 81st Cong., 1949-50 | (2 ft.) |
| **To Investigate the Justice Department** | 82d-83d Cong., 1951-54 | (29 ft.) |
| **On Submerged Lands** | 84th Cong., 1955-56 | (2 ft.) |
| **On the International Court of Justice** | 86th Cong., 1959-60 | (5 in.) |
| **On State Taxation of Interstate Commerce** | 87th-90th Cong., 1961-68 | (26 ft.) |
| **On Reapportionment** | 88th Cong., 1963-64 | (2 ft.) |
| **On Civil Rights** | 89th Cong., 1965-66 | (2 ft.) |
| **On Judicial Behavior** | 89th Cong., 1965-66 | (4 ft.) |

**14.100** The enlarged jurisdiction of the committee after the 1946 reorganization is reflected in the size and character of its **bill files**. During the period just before the reorganization (67th-79th Congresses, 1921-46), the Judiciary Committee bill files average 11 feet per Congress, while the average for the post-reorganization period (80th-90th Congresses, 1947-69), is over 110 feet per Congress. The size of the bill files reflects the overall increase in the number of pieces of legislation referred to the committee. During the 78th Congress (1943-44), 475 bills and resolutions were referred to the committee, producing 12 feet of bill files. By the 84th Congress (1955-56), these numbers increased to 6,032 pieces of legislation referred to the committee, producing 151 feet of bill files.

**14.101** Most of the increase was due to the inclusion of private bills that had previously been referred to the Committees on War Claims, on Claims, and on Immigration and Naturalization. The 6,032 bills and resolutions referred during the 84th Congress included 3,847 on immigration and naturalization, 966 on private claims, 5 on patents, and 1,214 pieces of public legislation. All private bills and resolutions were referred to Subcommittee #1 or Subcommittee #2, which had special jurisdiction over immigration and naturalization and over claims, respectively. All public bill files were maintained in the full committee files, although they may have been referred to any one of the subcommittees.

**14.102** The bill files for the 80th-90th Congresses are arranged by Congress and thereunder in three series: "public bills and resolutions," "claims," and, "immigration and naturalization legislation." The public bill files and immigration and naturalization bill files are arranged by bill type: House bills, House resolutions, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, Senate bills, Senate joint resolutions, and Senate concurrent resolutions, and thereunder by bill or resolution number. The claims bill files are arranged alphabetically by surnames of claimants.

## Impeachment Records

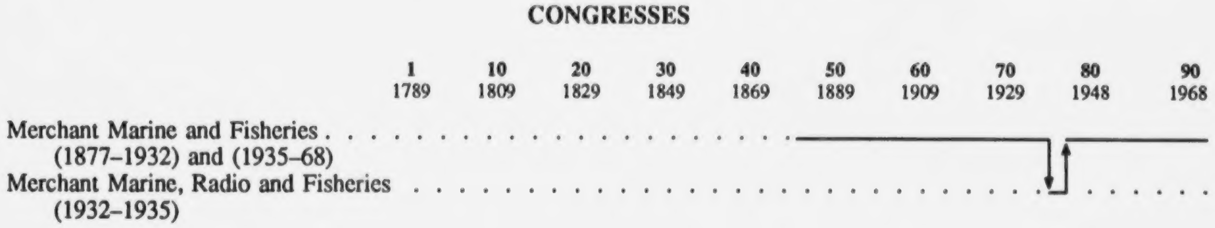
**14.103** The impeachment power granted to Congress under the Constitution provides an effective tool for the investigation of executive and judicial misbehavior and its elimination through the conviction and removal of the offender. Under the Constitution the power of impeachment is reserved for the House of Representatives, and the power to try all impeachments is reserved for the Senate. Since 1789, approximately 90 impeachment-related inquiries have been initiated in the House. Twelve impeachments have reached the Senate, and four of these have resulted in conviction. Of the approximately 80 investigations conducted after the Judiciary Committee's formation in 1813, the committee has been involved in a great majority, including the formal impeachment investigations of two Presidents. The House Judiciary Committee investigation of President Nixon is, however, beyond the timeframe of this chapter.

**14.104** Impeachment proceedings have been initiated by the introduction of a resolution by a member, by a letter or message from the President, by a grand jury action forwarded to the House from a Territorial legislature, by a memorial setting forth charges, by a resolution authorizing a general investigation, and by a resolution reported by the House Judiciary Committee. After submission of charges, a committee investigation has been undertaken. If the charges have been supported by the investigation, the committee has reported an impeachment resolution, which in four of the five post-1900 cases has included articles of impeachment. The impeachment resolution has been subject to adoption in the House by majority vote. The next step has been the selection of House managers to direct the proceedings in the Senate.

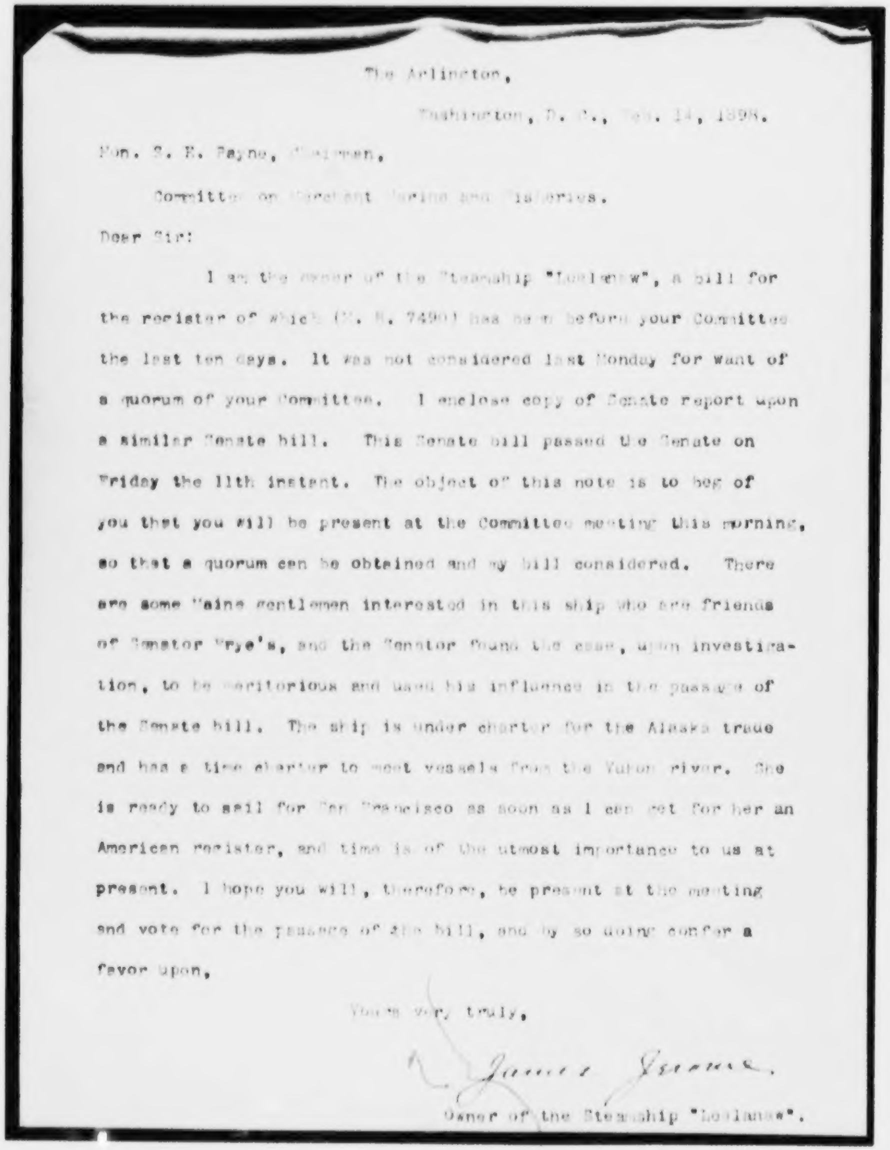
**14.105** There are files on 54 impeachment inquiries before the 1946 reorganization. The records of the impeachment inquiries may be filed in several locations; each impeachment may require a thorough search of the records. Many of the records are filed in a special category for impeachment records and not with the records of the Judiciary Committee or other committee involved. Some of the investigative records are filed under the resolution authorizing the investigation in the Judiciary Committee bill files. The records may be filed along with the committee papers of a special subcommittee designated to carry out the investigation, such as the 89th Congress Ad Hoc Special Subcommittee on Judicial Behavior, which investigated Judge Stephen Chandler.

# Chapter 15

# RECORDS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE


CONGRESSES
1
1789
10
1809
20
1829
30
1849
40
1869
50
1889
60
1909
70
1929
80
1948
90
1968
Merchant Marine and Fisheries
(1877–1932) and (1935–68)
Merchant Marine, Radio and Fisheries
(1932–1935)

***The photograph and letter shown here are part of the documentation included in the file on H.R. 7490, 55th Congress, "a bill to provide an American register for the steamer Leelanaw." (55A-F22.2)***



The Arlington,

Washington, D. C., Feb. 14, 1898.

Hon. S. E. Payne, Chairman,

Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Dear Sir:

I am the owner of the Steamship "Leelanaw", a bill for the register of which (H. R. 7490) has been before your Committee the last ten days. It was not considered last Monday for want of a quorum of your Committee. I enclose copy of Senate report upon a similar Senate bill. This Senate bill passed the Senate on Friday the 11th instant. The object of this note is to beg of you that you will be present at the Committee meeting this morning, so that a quorum can be obtained and my bill considered. There are some Maine gentlemen interested in this ship who are friends of Senator Frye's, and the Senator found the case, upon investigation, to be meritorious and used his influence in the passage of the Senate bill. The ship is under charter for the Alaska trade and has a time charter to meet vessels from the Yukon river. She is ready to sail for San Francisco as soon as I can get for her an American register, and time is of the utmost importance to us at present. I hope you will, therefore, be present at the meeting and vote for the passage of the bill, and by so doing confer a favor upon,

Yours very truly,

James Jerome.

Owner of the Steamship "Leelanaw".

# CHAPTER 15

# RECORDS OF THE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE

## Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries 1877-1968

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**15.1** The Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries was established on December 21, 1887 to replace the Select Committee on American Shipbuilding and Shipowning Interests. The House Rules defined its jurisdiction as those matters concerning the merchant marine. This included all matters relating to transportation by water, the Coast Guard, life-saving service, lighthouses, lightships, ocean derelicts, the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Panama Canal, and fisheries. Legislation referred to the committee also included matters involving seamen (their assignments, wages, treatment, and health) and officers (their titles, conduct, and licensing); the naming, measuring, licensing, and registering of vessels; navigation and related laws; pleasure yachts; collisions at sea, as well as international arrangements to prevent them; coasting districts; maritime schools; and, taxes, fines, and penalties on vessels. The committee has also regulated shipping in the Philippines and Hawaii. As did most committees of the House, the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee created subcommittees to handle portions of its jurisdiction.

**15.2** In 1919 the committee was given jurisdiction over wireless telegraphy (radio), and in 1932 its name was changed to the Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries. After a dispute with the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the jurisdiction over radio services was transferred to that committee in 1935 and the term "radio" was dropped from the name of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the jurisdiction of the committee was enlarged and more fully defined. Its formal statement of jurisdiction read as follows:

> a) Merchant marine generally. b) Coast and Geodetic Survey. c) Coast Guard, including lifesaving service, lighthouses, lightships, and ocean derelicts. d) Fisheries and wildlife, including research, restoration, refuges, and conservation. e) Measures relating to the regulation of common carriers by water (except matters subject to the jurisdiction of the Interstate Commerce Commission) and to the inspection of merchant marine vessels, lights and signals, lifesaving equipment, and fire protection on such vessels. f) Merchant marine officers and seamen. g) Navigation and the laws relating thereto, including pilotage. h) Panama Canal and the maintenance and operation of the Panama Canal, including the administration, sanitation, and government of the Canal Zone; and interoceanic canals generally. i) Registering and licensing of vessels and small boats. j) Rules and international arrangements to prevent collisions at sea. k) United States Coast Guard and Merchant Marine Academies.[1]

### *Records of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, 50th-79th Congresses (1887-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 9 vols. | 1889-1907, 1925-27<br>1937-44 | 51st-59th, 69th<br>75th-78th |
| Docket Books | 10 vols. | 1889-1909 | 51st-60th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 9 ft. | 1889-1919, 1921-38<br>1945-46 | 51st-65th, 67th-75th<br>79th |
| Comm. Papers | 58 ft. | 1887-1921, 1923-46 | 50th-66th, 68th-79th |
| Bill Files | 67 ft. | 1903-9, 1911-19<br>1921-31, 1931-46 | 58th-60th, 62d-65th<br>67th-71st, 73d-79th |
| TOTAL: 134 ft. and 19 vols. (1 ft.) | | | |

*See also tables for the 80th-90th Congresses after para. 15.18

**Name changed to Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries between 1932 and 1935

**15.3** The **minutes** for 1889-1907 were kept in bound minute books; those after 1925 were handwritten or typed on loose-leaf paper and filed along with the committee papers. The minutes for this committee are generally sparse, recording only the members of the committee present at meetings and the bill numbers and subjects of legislation discussed. Occasionally, however, the minutes provide detailed insight into the legislative decision-making process. The March 8, 1900 markup session on H.R. 64, the Payne bill, to promote commerce and increase foreign trade for the national defense, extends over 16 pages in the minute book for the 56th Congress.

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[1] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 346.

**15.4 Petitions and memorials** have been preserved from almost every Congress since the establishment of the committee. Although there are no petition and memorial files as such for the 76th through 78th Congresses, those petitions and memorials that were referred to the committee during that period may be found in the bill files under the legislation to which they relate.

**15.5** Petitions and memorials concerning the living and working conditions of merchant sailors are among the committee's records from its beginning in the 19th century through the end of World War II. Although the specific thrust of the legislation changed over time, the competing forces—seamen and other working class groups versus merchants and shipowners—remained the same. Congressman James G. Maguire, for example, introduced a number of bills during the 53d and 54th Congresses (1893-97) that provided protection for seamen against oppressive treatment and harsh living and working conditions. Petitions from entrepreneurs such as "The 37 largest shipowners, exporters, and importers of Massachusetts" protested the passage of the "Maguire bills" while the Cigarmakers Union of America, the Typographical Union, and the Ancient Order of Loyal Americans urged the committee to report the bills favorably (53A-H19.2, 54A-H20.1). "Compliment laws," legislation intended to provide for safe working conditions, were passed to "prevent the undermanning and unskilled manning of American vessels," 1907-11 (60A-H22.3, 61A-H21.5). Other "seamen's bills" were intended to protect merchant seamen from arrest and imprisonment for desertion (63A-H18.1).

**15.6** Seamen's bills and petitions and memorials urging their support or defeat are in the records for almost every Congress. The high point of public concern for seamen's rights appears to have occurred at the end of World War II when hundreds of petitions urged support for H.R. 2346 or H.R. 2180, the Merchant Seaman's Bill of Rights. In 1945 Mrs. Harriet Keech expressed the sentiments of many who favored passage of the "Bill" when she wrote: "Because of the vital contribution made by our sons, husbands, and brothers in the war, it is correct that they be given the same consideration that the men of the armed forces received under the G.I. Bill of Rights." Interested seamen such as the crew of the S.S. *Kenyon L. Butterfield*, and members of the National Maritime Union also urged support for the bills (79A-H12, 3 ft.).

**15.7** The promotion of legislation intended either to enlarge the merchant marine or to restore it to its former status is also a continuing subject. Petitioners sought support for legislation providing subsidies and other methods for building the merchant marine (54A-H20.1, 55A-H15.1, 56A-H15.2, 60A-H22.2, 61A-H21.3, 63A-H18.1, 64A-H15.1 and more). Some petitioners suggested special needs to be met by an improved merchant marine. In 1890, for example the Philadelphia Board of Trade urged Congress to help establish a shipping line to West Africa in order to "promote American commerce, and the extension of freedom, humanity, civilization, and Christianity in one of the richest marts and most populous portions of the world" (51A-H13.3).

**15.8** Records relating to the registry of ships built in the United State or of foreign built ships that were cast ashore by storms and abandoned by their owners appear among the petition and memorial files of most Congresses during the early years of the committee, 1893-1905 (53A-H19.1, 58A-H15.2, ). Other records relating to the registry of ships are filed with the committee papers, such as the records relating to the registration of the S.S. *Earnwell*, the S.S. *Menemsha*, the S.S. *Catania*, and the Bark *Villa* (55A-F22.3). Some of the records relating to registry of vessels contain extensive documentation (see para. 15.13).

**15.9** Other subjects of petitions and memorials included support for a load-line bill which was intended to increase safety in the Great Lakes by regulating the overloading of ships (51A-H13.1); establishment of a home for aged seamen (52A-H14.1); establishment of lobster hatcheries in Maine and New Hampshire (56A-H15.1); and the employment of surfmen by the Lifesaving Service (56A-H15.3),

**15.10** Around 1890 the committee received large numbers of petitions from the boards of trade of various cities protesting passage of legislation that would allow the use of purse seines when fishing for mackerel and menhaden in any waters without reference to the applicable state regulations (52A-H14.2). A few years later (1903-5) the Master Mariner's Association of Glouchester, MA and a number of similar organizations petitioned Congress to pass legislation to protect food fish from the sharks and dogfish that had proliferated off the New England shore (58A-H15.4).

**15.11** Various aspects of radio communications were the subjects of petitions both before and after radio was formally part of the jurisdiction of the committee. During the late 1920's petitioners protested code interference created by the use of "spark-type" transmitters used by a commercial New York business, and suggested that the use of vacuum tubes would solve the problem (69A-H11.2). In 1930 dozens of petitioners protested the Federal Radio Commission's decision to close radio station KWKH in Shreveport, LA, because of the use of certain language (71A-H11.2), while others protested the Commission's decision to reduce the power of station WFLA-WSUN to prevent it from serving the Tampa, Florida area (72A-H10.2). Other petitions concerned the issuance of radio broadcast licenses to educational, religious, agricultural, labor, and other non-profit organizations (73A-H13.1).

**15.12** The **committee papers** (58 ft.) contain a wide variety of unpublished documentation. They average 1-6 inches per Congress before 1935 and from 2 to 8 feet per Congress between 1935 and 1947. More than half of the total volume of committee papers consists of material collected during the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee's investigation of that part of the national defense program that was in the jurisdiction of the committee (79A-F25 and 79A-F119, 30 ft.). For additional information see para. 15.16 below.

**15.13** Records relating to the American registration of salvaged foreign vessels appear throughout the pre-World War II files. Although these records are not filed as records of the Subcommittee on Registry, they document much of the work of that group (see 51A-F22.2, 55A-F22.2). The registry records document the salvage and repair of ships that had run aground and had been abandoned by their owners. They often contain a wide variety of financial, legal, and political documentation, including correspondence from all interested parties and the lawyers and insurance companies that represented them; documents from underwriters—in many cases Lloyd's Register of British and Foreign Shipping; estimates of damages and specifications of repair costs; contracts; affidavits; cargo manifests; and correspondence from other Government bodies including other congressional committees and port authorities. These records may be filed under the name of the ship or under the number of the related legislation. For example, the records relating to H.R. 1713, 54th Cong., a bill providing for the registry of a British ship formerly named *Nerito*, which was wrecked and abandoned on Sabale Island and later renamed *Miami*, are filed under the new name, Miami (54A-F25.3).

**15.14** Other records in the committee papers relate to legislation regulating the overloading of vessels on the Great Lakes (51A-F22.2), legislation affecting the legal length and width of ship-tows in inland waters and New York Harbor (56A-F22.5); ship subsidies (56A-F22.4, 57A-F22.2), and transcripts of executive markup sessions on the Shipping Board Act of 1916 (64A-F23.1) and the Merchant Marine Act of 1935 (74A-F25.3). Included also are letters from fishermen in 1892 defending themselves against charges that they were guilty of catching food fish along with the menhaden, a fish used for oil or fertilizer production (52A-F27.2).

**15.15** Among the committee papers after 1937 are the committee's general correspondence files. The correspondence file for each Congress is arranged by subject, and ranges in size from 1 linear foot to over 5 feet. The 1937-38 correspondence file, for example, contains folders on the following subjects: Alaskan salmon fisheries, bankruptcy of the Munson SS line, a Coast Guard modernization program, Federal Ship Mortgage Insurance, various aspects of fisheries, lobbying regulations, the Panama Canal, shipbuilding, safety at sea, a sardine fishing investigation, tramp shipping, and other topics (75A-F25.3, 15 in.).

**15.16** Records from the committee's multi-year investigation of the progress of the national defense program in areas relating to the committee's jurisdiction consist of unpublished investigative files, correspondence, hearing transcripts, and exhibit material submitted to support testimony. Various aspects of the investigation were referred to the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee's subcommittees. The records are arranged by subcommittee and thereunder by the industry or activity being investigated (79A-F119).

**15.17** The **bill files** are relatively thin before the 75th Congress (1935), averaging 6 inches per Congress except for the 1911-13 records (62A-D15) which consist of over 20 feet of material. The unusually large volume of material for the 62d Congress consists almost entirely of records relating to H.Res. 587, a resolution that authorized the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee to investigate the methods and practices of foreign and domestic shipping lines in coastal and inland commerce, and their connections with other shipping lines, railroads, and common carriers. The records consist almost entirely of "Schedules of Inquiry," questionnaires that the committee distributed to the domestic shipping lines for response.

**15.18** After 1937 the bill files are much more complete than before that date. The files average 8 feet per Congress and contain folders on most of the legislation referred to the committee. During part of this period the petitions and memorials pertaining to specific legislation are filed with the bill to which they relate. Other types of documents found in the bill files include correspondence with executive agencies, other organizations and individuals; copies of the bill or resolution, hearings and reports; and other documents related to the legislation.

### *Records of the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 3 ft. | 1949-68 | 81st-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 ft. | 1947-48, 1951-68 | 80th, 82d-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 61 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 155 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 221 ft. | | |

• See also tables for 50th-79th Congresses after para. 15.3.

**15.19** The **minutes** of full committee and subcommittee meetings are filed together in chronological order in loose-leaf notebooks. They contain accounts of open and executive session meetings. In some cases the minutes also contain roll-call vote slips.

**15.20** Separate **petition and memorial** files exist for most of this period, but during the 88th through 90th Congresses (1963-68) petitions and memorials are filed together with executive communications. In some cases petitions and memorials relating to specific pieces of legislation are filed in the bill file for the legislation instead of in the petition and memorial series. The documents cover a wide range of subjects relating to the merchant marine.

**15.21** The living and working conditions of seamen continued to be a subject of memorials, but it was no longer the major concern that it had been. The National Maritime Union and other seamen's organizations protested post-war legislation that would deport certain alien seamen and transfer the title of certain American ships to foreign flags (80A-H9.1); the seamen's organizations reasoned that the alien seamen had supported the U.S. war effort and deserved better treatment than deportation, and that the transfer of ships to foreign flags would take work away from our native seamen. The American Legion, Connecticut Department, submitted a memorial in 1960 calling for the improvement of the safety conditions at sea by increasing the appropriations for the Coast Guard Academy (86A-H10.1).

**15.22** State legislatures, local governments, and a wide variety of business, labor and environmental organizations petitioned Congress to pass legislation to provide economic benefits. The Township of Gloucester, NJ, passed a resolution in 1959 asking for legislation allocating funds to cover the construction of a superliner ship at the neighboring New York Shipbuilding Corporation—a project that would provide 3 years work for 3,500 men and would greatly benefit the economy of the Delaware Valley area (86A-H10.1). The Roosevelt Medal Associates and Senior Citizens of Burlingame, CA, sent a complex document—a "memo with brief and argument"—that supported passage of legislation to extend benefits to retirees under the Panama Canal Construction Service Annuity Act of 1944 (87A-H9.1).

**15.23** The committee received large numbers of petitions and memorials concerning the conservation, preservation, and exploitation of wildlife, and the ocean fisheries. Many of these were in the form of resolutions passed by State legislatures. The legislature of the State of California sent a memorial favoring the construction of devices to improve feeding and spawning conditions for anadromous fish, and the legislature of Alaska supported S. 627, a bill that provided for research and development projects to study the causes of the salmon failure in Bristol Bay in 1963 (88 MMF 3). The Secretary of the Hopi Tribe at Oraibi, AZ prayed in 1962 that provisions be made to allow the tribe, in its traditional territories, to continue to take eagles for use in sacred feather offerings, even though legislation to protect the eagles had been proposed (87A-H9.1). The House of Representatives of Idaho asked that the Minidoka Wildlife Refuge be turned over to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for management (86A-H10.1).

**15.24** The **committee papers** for each Congress contain the executive communications that were referred to the committee, minutes of committee and subcommittee meetings, copies of the legislative calendar, copies of printed hearings, and, in some cases, transcripts of executive session meetings.

**15.25** The executive communications include reports from various agencies such as the annual reports of the U.S. Maritime Commission, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission (88 MMF 3). The committee received annual and special reports from the Secretary of Commerce on war-risk insurance under the Merchant Marine Act of 1936, and other subjects such as shipbuilding in the coastal districts of the United States. The Treasury Department submitted annual and special reports on subjects such as recreational boating in the United States, and the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, submitted reports such as *Trident*, a long range fishery forecast.

**15.26** Other documents that are filed as executive communications include drafts of proposed legislation. Examples are: An August 1964 proposal for "A bill to improve the aids to navigation services of the Coast Guard" received from the Secretary of the Treasury; "A bill to aid in the administration of the Pribilof Islands in Alaska" proposed by the Secretary of the Interior; and "A bill to amend the Canal Zone Code to empower the Panama Canal Company and Canal Zone to make interest-bearing loans . . . on low cost homes" submitted by the Governor of the Panama Canal Zone (88A-MMF 3).

**15.27** Transcripts of open session and executive session meetings of the committee are contained in the records of each Congress. Many of these transcripts were never published. The records of the 88th Congress (1963-64), for example, contain unpublished transcripts of hearings before the Subcommittee on the Panama Canal, hearings on deep-sea diving capabilities before the Subcommittee on Oceanography, and full committee hearings on the 1964 Coast Guard Authorization Act. Earlier records include transcripts of a hearing on the Mexican seizure of five American shrimp boats in 1950 (81A-F11.1). In 1953 a special subcommittee held numerous executive sessions as well as open hearings concerning salvage operations on the *Cornhusker Mariner* (83A-F12.1), while a Special West Coast Subcommittee investigated shipbuilding activities in Los Angeles (83A-F12.2), and the standing Subcommittee on the Panama Canal studied the organization of the Canal Zone Government and the Panama Canal Company (83A-F12.3).

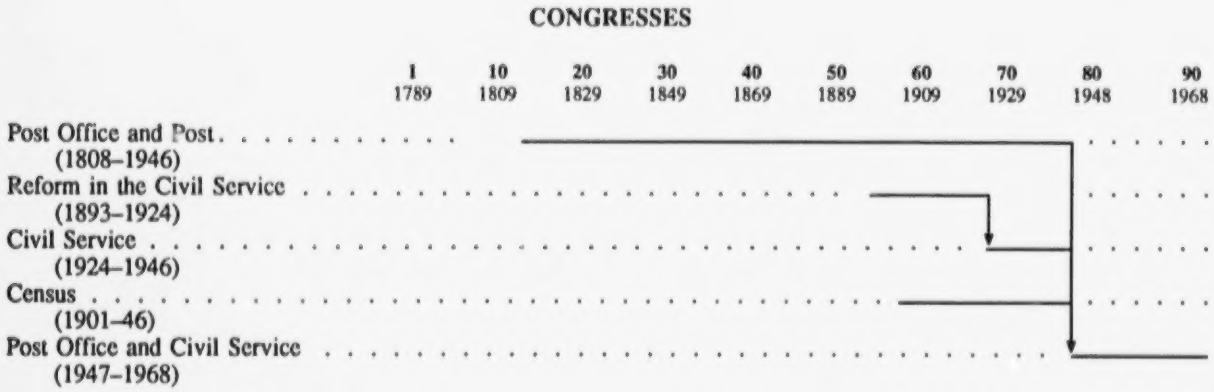
**15.28** The files of the special subcommittee investigation of an explosion in South Amboy, New Jersey on May 19, 1950, contain voluminous transcripts, exhibits, correspondence, and other documents (81A-F11.2, 15 in.).

**15.29** **Bill files** comprise almost three-quarters of the records of this committee during the post-World War II years. They contain documentation on most of the legislation that passed through the committee.- The bill files for the 84th Congress, 1955-56 (84A-D12, 15 ft.) will serve as an example of the kinds of records available in this series. They contain a folder on each bill and resolution that was referred to the committee. The file for H.R. 5306, a bill to protect and preserve the national wildlife refuges, contains 6 inches of material, and is representative of the larger files in this series. It contains printed copies of the bill as it was introduced and copies of proposed amendments; copies of committee's report on the bill and the printed transcript of hearings held by the committee; pages torn from the *Congressional Record* in which the legislation was discussed in the House or Senate; press releases; newspaper clippings; correspondence between the committee staff and private citizens and organizations, and other Government officials in Congress, the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of the Budget, and various State agencies; and trade bulletins and newsletters from interest groups such as the Wildlife Management Institute, the National Wildlife Federation, and the Outdoor Writer's Association of America, Inc.

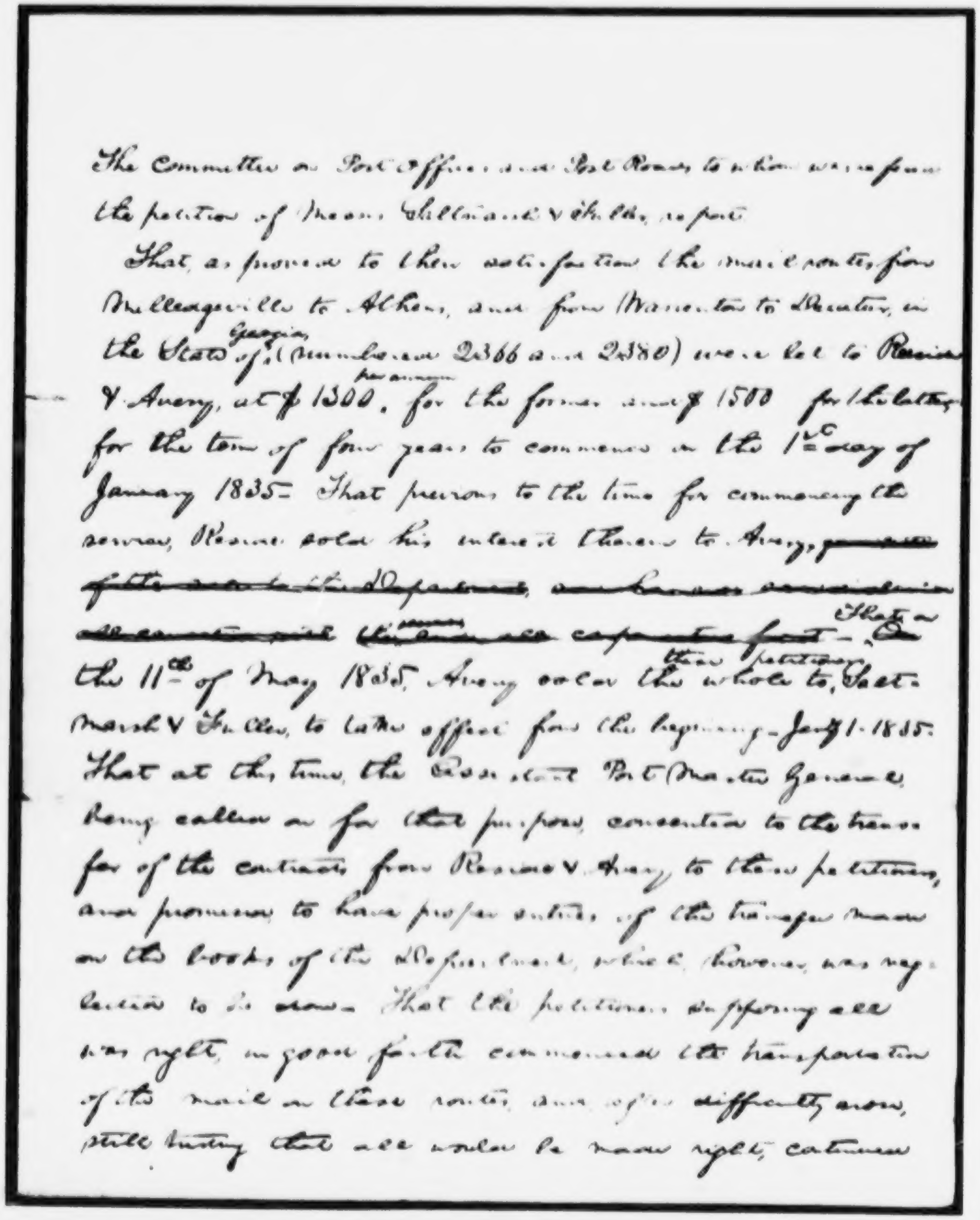
**15.30** The list of bills and resolutions referred to the committee and published in the *Committee Calendar* can serve as an index to the bill files of this committee because, in most cases, there is a folder for each piece of legislation referred.

# Chapter 16

# RECORDS OF THE POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEES



*Original documents from Abraham Lincoln's early public life are rare. House Report 102 is written in Lincoln's own hand as chairman of the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads in 1848. (30A-D16.2)*



The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads to whom was referred
the petition of Messrs. Saltmarsh & Fuller, report
That, as proved to their satisfaction the mail routes from
Milledgeville to Athens, and from Warrenton to Decatur, in
the State of Georgia (numbered 2366 and 2380) were let to Reeside
& Avery, at $1300. per annum for the former and $1500 for the latter
for the term of four years to commence on the 1st day of
January 1835. That previous to the time for commencing the
service, Reeside sold his interest therein to Avery, ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~, ~~[illegible]~~
~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ — That on
the 11th of May 1835, Avery sold the whole to, these petitioners Salt-
marsh & Fuller, to take effect from the beginning—Jany 1-1835.
That at this time, the Assistant Post Master General,
being called on for that purpose, consented to the trans-
fer of the contracts from Reeside & Avery to these petitioners,
and promised to have proper entries of the transfer made
on the books of the Department, which, however, was neg-
lected to be done. That the petitioners supposing all
was right, in good faith commenced the transportation
of the mail on these routes, and after difficulty arose,
still trusting that all would be made right, continued

# CHAPTER 16

# RECORDS OF THE POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEES

## Introduction

**16.1** The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished three standing committees and combined their jurisdictions to form the Post Office and Civil Service Committee. This chapter describes the records of the committee and its predecessors, the committees on Post Office and Post Roads established in 1808, Civil Service (established as the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service), and the Census, established in 1901.

## Committee on Post Office and Post Roads, 1808-1946

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**16.2** A Select Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads was established in 1806 and made a standing committee in 1808. The early membership of the committee consisted of one Member from each state.

**16.3** The jurisdiction of the committee extended to all proposed legislation relating to the carrying of the mails, both foreign and domestic. It included the determination of the location, construction, and maintenance of post offices and post roads; the acquisition, lease, or transfer of realty or facilities for postal purposes; and certain aspects of the employment and management of postal employees, such as the pay and leave of letter carriers, and the settlement of claims brought by employees or contractors. It included the regulation of the Postal Service, including postal rates, the franking privilege, and the printing of stamped envelopes. At various times the Railway Mail Service, ocean mail service, pneumatic tube service, postal savings banks, postal telegraphy, the Air Mail Service, and Rural Free Delivery were included in its jurisdiction.

**16.4** As part of its responsibility the committee investigated the management of postal facilities, contracts for carrying the mail, and other subjects such as the forgery of postal money orders.

**16.5** In 1885 the jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to include appropriation authority. The committee prepared Post Office appropriations bills from that time until 1920 when the authority was revoked under a rule change. The committee functioned until 1946 when its jurisdiction was included in that of the new Committee on Post Office and Civil Service.

***Records of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, 10th-79th Congresses (1808-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 21 vol. | 1887-1923, 1943-46 | 50th-67th, 78th-79th |
| Docket Books | 43 vol. | 1825-33, 1835-37<br>1839-43, 1849-57<br>1859-61, 1887-1941 | 19th-22d, 24th<br>26th-27th, 31st-34th<br>36th, 50th-76th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 94 ft. | 1808-83, 1885-1913<br>1915-21, 1923-42 | 10th-47th, 49th-62d<br>64th-66th, 68th-77th |
| Comm. Papers | 27 ft. | 1808-1946 | 10th-79th |
| Bill Files | 23 ft. | 1903-11, 1917-46 | 58th-61st, 65th-79th |

TOTAL: 144 ft. and 64 vols. (5 ft.)

**16.6** The records of this committee provide a thorough coverage of the various activities that occupied its members during its 138-year existence. The **minute books** and **docket books** taken together cover much of the life of the committee. They record the petitions, memorials, bills, resolutions, and other documents that were referred to the committee and their disposition within the committee.

**16.7** The bulk of the documents from the early years of the committee are **petitions and memorials**. Several topics dominate the files during each of the historical periods of the committee. The records from almost every Congress during the years before the Civil War, for example, contain requests for new or expanded post offices, post roads, or postal routes. Opposition to Sunday mail operations was the subject of a continuous stream of petitions and memorials during the early period. A variety of other issues, many of which involved the salaries of postmasters and other employees of the Post Office were considered by the committee during each Congress.

**16.8** Claims petitions, usually submitted by Post Office employees or persons who contracted to carry the mails, appear in the records of every Congress before the Civil War. The claims often asked for reimbursement for unexpected expenses involved in the fulfillment of a contract, or for the performance of extraordinary duties. The situation described in the mid-century committee report below is typical of the claims before this committee:

> From the length and difficulties of this contract route, the hostile feelings of the Indians, through part of whose country it passes, and the exposure to robberies, the contractor must always send with the mail a strong escort of well armed men, employed at high wages. There is no prospect that this expense can be discontinued during the existence of the present contract, unless a military escort be allowed the mail, and such an escort will cost the government more than the entire sum proposed to be allowed to the contractor. (34A-D15.1).

**16.9** Throughout the century the committee confronted the issue of mail rates, fielding questions from the public concerning the right to use the franking privilege of free postage (31A-G14.3), the correct mailing costs for newspapers and periodicals (22A-G16.3), and the Post Office's use of cumbersome fractional rates (25A-G15.3). Other subjects that were brought before the committee included demands to reduce postage rates (22A-G16.3, 28A-G16.5, 29A-G14.4, 30A-G15.3, 49A-H18.4), and the use of stamped envelopes (39A-H19.6, 41A-H9.3, 42A-H11.4).

**16.10** During the second half of the 19th century the committee continued to address many of the same issues that appeared in the earlier years. Petitions and memorials for this period, with several exceptions, are fewer in number than before. The frequency of petitions for post roads and for curtailment of the franking privilege gradually declined, while the volume of requests for more favorable hours and compensation for letter carriers increased greatly.

**16.11** Pressures of the Civil War influenced the Post Office Committee to provide for the shipment of small parcels of clothing and other articles to soldiers (37A-G11.17), and, more importantly, to find a safe way for soldiers to send money home, a demand that eventually led to the adoption of postal money orders (33A-G16.7). Seeking further expansion of the banking functions of the Post Office, farmers and reformers representing recent immigrants petitioned for a postal savings system to aid rural areas and small depositors (41A-F19.1, 45A-H18.5, 47A-H18.1). The system was not finally adopted until 1910, and it lasted until 1966.

**16.12** Moral crusaders pressured the committee and gained passage of the "Comstock Postal Laws" prohibiting the importation or mailing of immoral literature, art, or contraceptives (36A-G14.4). Anthony Comstock, founder of the Society for Suppression of Vice, and later a New York City Postal Inspector, along with allies such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union, flooded Congress with objections to the use of the mail for delivering obscene material (49A-H18.6, 51A-H17.9, 52A-H18.3), novels (55A-H21.7), and lotteries (51A-H17.10, 53A-H25.7). This in turn caused civil libertarians to mount petition drives to overthrow the Comstock legislation (46A-H19.1).

**16.13** Newspapers and periodicals fought for mailing privileges and fought even harder for lower postage rates (22A-G16.3, 42A-H11.5, 53A-H25.1). Rural weekly newspapers traditionally had thrived due to free passage through the mails; and publishers of all types sought to avoid prepayment of books sent to libraries (39A-H19.3). Rural constituencies attempted to stem the outcry against fourth-class postmasters who served few but cost much (55A-H21.2). Largely successful in stopping any postal reorganization, farm communities sought free delivery service, something urban areas had been receiving since the Civil War had ended (52A-H18.7).

**16.14** As the agrarian part of the country became more politically organized through the Grange and the Populist Party, and urban immigrants joined with socialistic minded reformers, the demand for government ownership of the telegraph system grew greater with each passing year. The high-point of public interest came in April 1888, when the House received an avalanche of petitions favoring public sector ownership of the telegraph (50A-H22, 22 ft.).

**16.15** After the turn of the century, long standing issues still confronted the committee, such as compensation of postal employees (70A-H12.2), "Star Routes" (74A-H14.4), and the use of the mails for fraud (58A-F28.4). Mail trucks doomed the large city pneumatic-tube network, but petitioners still fought for retention or restoration of the system (55A-H21.1, 66A-H15.6, 74A-H14.6). Memorialists continued their opposition to Sunday mail transactions (60A-H29.4, 62A-H24.2), and petitioners requested issues of commemorative stamps to honor American heroes and achievers (72A-H12.1, 74A-H14.3).

**16.16** World War I brought requests for free postage for the armed forces and censorship of "subversive" literature (65A-H14.2). The latter issue extended the scope of earlier demands to halt circulation of anarchist and other radical writings (60A-F41.8).

**16.17** The **committee papers** for this committee, although not voluminous, contain documentation from every Congress between 1805 and the present. The committee papers from every Congress between 1821 and the Civil War contain records related to the claims referred to the committee. In most cases these consist only of the manuscript report that was printed in the *Congressional Serial Set*, but occasionally supporting papers are filed under this heading.

**16.18** Petitioners demanded that the committee survey European postal systems and confront the issue of mail exchanges with foreign countries (33A-G16.2 and 33A-G16.35). An excellent overview of the issues and problems the Post Office Committee faced may be seen in a letter of Postmaster General Amos Kendall instructing special postal agent George Plitt to go to Europe and study the British and French postal systems to determine their methods of dealing with postal rates, the franking privilege, transmission of funds, contracts, accounting systems, post roads, rail and steamship transportation, kinds of mail bags, foreign mail dead letters, and a number of other issues (27A-D15.2).

**16.19** The committee received correspondence on technological advances of possible use to the Post Office. In 1845 after he left the Post Office Department, Kendall wrote the committee as a representative of Samuel Morse's "Electro-magnetic Telegraph" proposing possible terms for Government use of the invention (29A-D15.2). Ten years later Tennessee petitioners presented a less realistic proposal when they recommended the adoption of Isham Walker's plan of "carrying the mails through the air at a speed of 300 miles per hour" by means of an "air vessel" to be constructed of wire and sheet copper (33A-G16.39). Suggestions about improvements in the use of envelopes (34A-G14.6) and new information about atmospheric pressure tubes to move the mails (34A-D15.5) also reached the committee.

**16.20** The committee papers from the 24th Congress contain records related to the investigation of a fire that consumed the Washington, DC, Post Office Building in 1836 (24A-D15.2). The records consist of the minute book of the investigating subcommittee as well as diagrams and testimony relating to the incident. The committee also investigated mail contract frauds (43A-F21.5), and envelope frauds in the Stamp Division of the Post Office Department (48A-F27.1).

**16.21** The use of the mails to defraud consumers was brought to the committee's attention. Complaints about Doctor Richard, who conducted a mail-order business in "golden pills" (43A-F21.2), the "Sawdust Swindlers," who offered counterfeit money for sale (49A-F28.1), and many others, appear in the files. The distribution of advertisements for lotteries through the mails also drew outcries from the public (39A-F20.4). Although most such solicitations ceased in compliance with laws denying lotteries the use of the mails, Louisiana sponsored a particularly popular and defiant operation. As late as 1890, Postmaster General John Wanamaker notified President Benjamin Harrison of the Louisiana State Lottery Company's repeated violations of the law. According to Wanamaker, the company's national office in Washington, DC, alone, received approximately 50,000 pieces of mail per month. Wanamaker asked Harrison to recommend to Congress that stronger legislation be passed and Harrison complied (46A-F26.8, 51A-F30.4). In September 1890, the Post Office Department stopped service to the company.

**16.22** In general, the committee records from the Civil War to the turn of the century are sparse—especially for the period 1877-83. For several Congresses, however, the committee papers bulge with abstracts of bids and contracts for the delivery of the mails as well as reports of curtailment of expenses (40A-F19.1, 42A-F20.1).

**16.23** Many of the problems that had confronted the committee as the new century began soon found solutions. Legislation was passed making rural free delivery a permanent service in 1902, establishing the postal savings banks in 1910, and a full scale parcel post system in 1913. Modification or enlargement of the existing service tended to dominate the agenda of the committee during this period. Second-class mail issues filled the committee papers, among which are exhibits from a 1911 Commission on Second-Class Mail Matter which include such controversial magazines as the *Police Gazette* (62A-F30.1). Transportation concerns changed as automobiles and airplanes began to replace trains and ships as the means of moving the mail. The committee papers for the 1920's and 1930's are filled with reports of the costs of air mail (72A-F25.1, 74A-F30.4), including over 100 photographs showing features of the mail transportation service (70A-F27.2).

**16.24** The **bill files** generally consist of folders for each bill and resolution referred to the committee, with related correspondence, petitions and memorials, transcripts of hearings, and other documents. The earliest bill files (58A-D24) include transcripts of unprinted hearings for H.R. 11371, a bill providing relief for William Anderson, Postmaster of Elkhart, IN, for funds he had deposited in a bank that had failed, and H.R. 11143 a bill providing delayed compensation for the heirs of John Witter who had delivered mail between 1878 and 1880. Examples of legislation that drew a substantial volume of favorable correspondence or petitions and memorials include: H.R. 13447, 60th Cong., to prohibit postmasters from furnishing lists of the names of persons receiving mail at their offices, and H.R. 4549, 59th Cong., to consolidate 3d and 4th class mail. The file for H. J. Res. 368, 65th Cong., to provide for the continuance of government ownership of telephone and telegraph systems in the United States, contains correspondence and transcripts of hearings as well as scientific papers offered as exhibits at the hearings (65A-D17).

## Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, 1893-1924

## Committee on the Civil Service, 1924-46

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**16.25** The Committee on Reform in the Civil Service became a standing committee August 18, 1893, having been a select committee prior to that date. The committee's jurisdiction covered matters relating to "reform in the civil service," including the status, classification, and salaries of officers, clerks, and employees in the civil branches of Government; provisions for preference to sailors, soldiers, and marines seeking civil service employment; and the apportionment of civil service appointments among the States.

**16.26** The committee had jurisdiction over matters relating to the Civil Service Commission, the Bureau of Efficiency, and alleged violations of civil service law, and it reported legislation relating to the repeal of the Tenure of Office Act. In 1924 the name of the committee was shortened to Committee on the Civil Service, but the jurisdiction was not changed.

### *Records of the Committee on Reform in the Civil Service, 53d-68th Congresses (1893-1924) and the Committee on the Civil Service, 68th-79th Congresses (1924-46).*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 11 vols. | 1893-1905, 1907-9<br>1919-25, 1923-31<br>1937-38 | 53d-58th, 60th<br>66th-68th, 68th-71s<br>75th |
| Docket Books | 10 vols. | 1893-1905, 1907-9<br>1919-23, 1923-36 | 53d-58th, 60th<br>66th-67th, 68th-74th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 ft. | 1893-95, 1897-1905<br>1907-11, 1919-23<br>1927-29, 1937-46 | 53d, 55th-58th<br>60th-61st, 66th-67th<br>70th, 75th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 30 ft. | 1893-1905, 1907-11<br>1913-15, 1919-29<br>1935-46 | 53d-58th, 60th-61st<br>63d, 66th-70th<br>74th-79th |
| Bill Files | 8 ft. | 1903-9, 1919-29<br>1931-46 | 58th-60th, 66th-70th<br>72d-79th |

TOTAL: 42 ft. and 21 vols. (2 ft.)

**16.27** **Minute books** and **docket books** document committee activities for most of the years of its existence. In general, the minutes contain brief entries for each meeting of the committee. The minutes from the 58th Congress (1904-5), however, also contain committee prints of testimony on a proposed Federal

Government retirement and pension plan given by individuals representing such organizations as the Committee on Superannuation of the National Civil Service Reform League. The docket books record the receipt of documents by the committee and their referral to subcommittees.

**16.28** Some of the early **petitions and memorials** touch upon the veterans preference issue (56A-H26.1, 57A-H23.1, 70A-H2), but most relate to reclassification or retirement of federal employees. Almost 11 inches of printed petitions contain the signatures of 16,086 District of Columbia Federal workers requesting a retirement law based on a contributory plan (61A-H31.1). The so-called "Luhlbach" retirement bill which called for a 2.5 per cent deduction from employees salaries (66A-H17.1) and re-classification of Civil Service pay for teachers in Washington, DC, and in Indian Service Schools (67A-H19.1) also prompted petitions.

**16.29** Salary rates defined under the Classification Act of 1923 generated a large number of memorials (70A-H2.4, 6 in.). Other subjects of concern included legislation providing for a 5-day week for Federal workers (75A-H3.3), the creation of a Civil Service Court of Appeals (75A-H3.1), civil service retirement (76A-H5.3), and the hearing and settlement of employee grievances (76A-H5.2).

**16.30** The **committee papers** are not extensive before the 77th Congress (1941-42), totaling less than 2 feet. The bulk of these records consists of printed copies of bills, resolutions, and hearings, and copies of the annual reports of the Civil Service Commission, with occasional correspondence interspersed. Documents such as recommendations of the Personnel Classification Board (69A-F5.1) and lists of Government employees and their compensation (68A-F5.1) are also found among the records.

**16.31** The remainder of the committee papers consists of estimates of departmental personnel requirements during the war years (78A-F5.1, 79A-F4.1, 79A-F4.2, 6 ft.) and records pertaining to the committee's investigation of civilian employment in the Federal Government (77th-79th Congresses, 20 ft.).

**16.32** The Civil Service Committee's investigation of civilian employment in the Federal Government was initiated by H. Res. 550 in the 77th Congress (1942) and was continued through the 79th Congress. It was a response to demands that Congress put a halt to the confusion, duplication of effort, mass hiring, and waste of public funds prevalent in Federal agencies involved in the all-out war effort. The records relating to the committee's investigation consist of general correspondence (12 ft.), transcripts of testimony (8 in.), administrative records (2 ft.), and records relating to investigations of various agencies and activities (13 ft.). A finding aid is available for the records of this investigation.

**16.33** The **bill files** for this committee are generally sparse, consisting mostly of printed copies of bills, resolutions, and hearings. The bill files of several Congresses between 1907 and 1946 also contain correspondence, petitions and memorials, and other documents related to specific pieces of legislation (60A-D32, 66A-D27, 69A-D4, 76A-D5, 78A-D4, 79A-D6). The records from the 66th Congress (1919-21) include a petition from citizens of Washington, DC, in support of H.R. 3149, a bill concerning the retirement of employees of the classified civil service (66A-D27), and those from the 73d Congress (1933-34) contain thousands of mimeographed letters and post-card petitions favoring passage of H.R. 6844, a bill that placed the special delivery messengers of the Post Office under the classified civil service (73A-D2).

**16.34** With the outbreak of World War II the workload of the committee reflected the increased size of Government employment. The bill files from the 80th Congress contain over 80 bills and resolutions, including a large file on H. Res. 16, a resolution authorizing the committee to investigate the activities of various agencies and departments. The records of the committee's investigative staff working under the resolution are filed under the bill file for H. Res. 16 (79A-D6).

### *Related Records*

**16.35** Select committees on reform in the civil service were appointed in every Congress from the end of the Civil War until the standing committee was established. There are records from the select committees for the 42d, 45th through 47th, and 49th through 52d Congresses.

## Committee on the Census, 1901-46

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**16.36** The standing Committee on the Census was created in 1901 after having been a select committee for many years. The standing committee was established in anticipation of the creation of a permanent census office in 1902.[1] Its jurisdiction included all proposed legislation concerning the census and the apportionment of Representatives.

**16.37** The standing committee, and the select committees before it, reported bills providing for the collection of statistics concerning birth and deaths, marriage and divorce, farm mortgages, irrigation, and other subjects. It also reported legislation providing for the collection and publication of general statistics including those of the production of certain commodities such as cotton and grain. In 1946 the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction included in that of the new Post Office and Civil Service Committee.

### *Records of the Committee on the Census, 57th-79th Congresses (1901-46)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 6 vols. | 1901-9, 1939-42 | 57th-60th, 76th-77th |
| Docket Books | 4 vols. | 1901-9 | 57th-60th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 3 in. | 1903-13, 1919-21<br>1939-41 | 58th-62d, 66th<br>76th |
| Comm. Papers | 8 in. | 1901-11, 1929-31<br>1935-36, 1941-42 | 57th-61st, 71st<br>74th, 77th |
| Bill Files | 4 in. | 1903-5, 1913-15<br>1919-23, 1925-29<br>1939-42, 1945-46 | 58th, 63d<br>66th-67th, 69th-70th<br>76th-77th, 79th |

TOTAL: 15 in. and 10 vols. (6 in.)

**16.38** There are few records for this committee. For most Congresses only a handful of petitions and memorials, and copies of a few printed bills, resolutions, reports, and hearings have been preserved. For many Congresses no unprinted material has been preserved.

**16.39** The **minute books** and **docket books** reflect the small number of pieces of legislation referred to the committee, and the infrequent meetings of the committee. The minutes list the names of individuals who appeared before the committee and some of the volumes contain vote tally sheets. The minutes of the first meeting of the committee on January 6, 1902, record the committee decision to report favorably H.R. 198, a bill to establish a permanent census bureau.

**16.40** Few **petitions and memorials** that have been preserved for the 45-year history of the committee. The records from the early years of the century (1903-9) include appeals from the National Live Stock Association and the Utah Wool Growers Association for a classified census of livestock every ten years (58A-H3.1); an appeal from Otis Hammond and 14 others asking for an appropriation to compile and print the names from the 1790 census (59A-H3.1); and petitions from the National Brotherhood of Bookbinders, the Easton Typographical Union, and the Allied Printing Trades Council, protesting legislation that would allow the census to be printed on non-government presses, possibly opening the way for work by firms that did not meet union standards (60A-H5.2).

**16.41** Generally, the subjects included in the jurisdiction of the Census Committee did not inspire heated debate, but several subjects did generate rather strong public reaction. A large roll petition contains the signatures of 2,735 Slovak citizens from Cleveland, OH, who protested that they were classed as Hungarians in the 1910 Federal census (61A-H4.2). The largest number of petitions received by this committee protested a 1908 bill, H.R. 7597, which would have allowed census employees to be hired without taking a competitive examination (60A-H5.3).

**16.42** The **committee papers** files throughout the period usually consist only of prints of bills, resolutions, reports, and hearings. Documents of particular include minutes from a 1902 meeting of the Republican caucus on Edgar D. Crumpacker's resolution to appoint a select committee to investigate the suffrage laws of the several states (57A-F39.1) and correspondence relating to a 1910 investigation of census-taking in Puerto Rico (61A-F4.1). The records filed in the **bill files** are similar to those in the committee papers files.

### *Related Records*

**16.43** There are records of select committees on the census, for the 41st, 43d, 45th through 52d, and 55th Congresses (1869-99 with gaps) before the standing committee was established.

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[1] U.S. Congress, *Hinds' and Cannon's Precedents of the House of Representatives*, Volumes IV, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), p. 847.

## Post Office and Civil Service Committee, 1947-68

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**16.44** The Post Office and Civil Service Committee was established on January 2, 1947, as part of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. It combined the jurisdictions of the former committees on Post Offices and Post Roads, Civil Service, and Census. The jurisdiction over the National Archives, formerly under the Library Committee, was also included. The formal jurisdiction of the committee included matters relating to:

> a) Census and the collection of statistics generally. b) Federal Civil Service generally. c) National Archives. d) Postal-savings banks. e) Postal service generally, including the railway mail service, and measures relating to ocean mail and pneumatic-tube service; but excluding post roads. f) Status of officers and employees of the United States, including their compensation, classification, and retirement.[2]

### *Records of the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1949-50, 1967-68 | 81st, 90th |
| Comm. Papers | 15 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 80 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 95 ft. | | |

**16.45** Very few records of this committee are preserved at the National Archives. Almost half of the records shown on the table above consist of multiple copies of printed bills and resolutions (46 ft.).

**16.46** **Petitions and memorials** have been preserved from only two Congresses during this period. The records from 1949-50 include a resolution from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts asking Congress to authorize the issue of a stamp commemorating the birth of George Peabody, the first great American philanthropist; a memorial from the American Legion of Oak Ridge, TN, protesting that veteran's preference rights had been ignored in the hiring for the Atomic Energy Commission facility at Oak Ridge; and numerous memorials protesting against an April 1950 order from the Postmaster General that would reduce mail delivery to two times per day for businesses and one daily delivery for residential areas (81A-H9.1). As postal services were reduced, some groups of citizens were affected more than others. The rural citizens of Jerusalem, AR, protested that the reductions would be a hardship on them:

> We are greatly opposed to bills S. 1103 and H.R. 2945 lowering the weight of parcel post. We being rural people could not get along without the present parcel post services, as we are 22 miles from the railroad, and have very little transportation out our way (81A-H9.1).

**16.47** The 1967-68 records contain petitions requesting the issue of various commemorative stamps; memorials from the City of Elizabeth, NJ, and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts proposing that the passage of legislation to allow postage free packages to be sent to servicemen and women serving in Vietnam; and a resolution from the Commander of the Vermont Disabled American Veterans proposing that disabled veterans employed in the civil service be granted administrative leave to attend physical examinations offered by the Veterans Administration.

**16.48** The **committee papers** consist chiefly of copies of the committee calendar for each Congress, and the executive communications and Presidential messages that were referred to the committee. A majority of the executive communications referred to the committee for this period are Federal agency reviews of certain supergrade positions as required under section 1310 (d) of Public Law 82-253.

**16.49** There are two series of "**bill files**" for this committee. A series that was retired along with the records of the individual Congresses consists only of copies of printed bills. Another, more complete series retired at a later time, contains the correspondence and other documents related to specific pieces of legislation.

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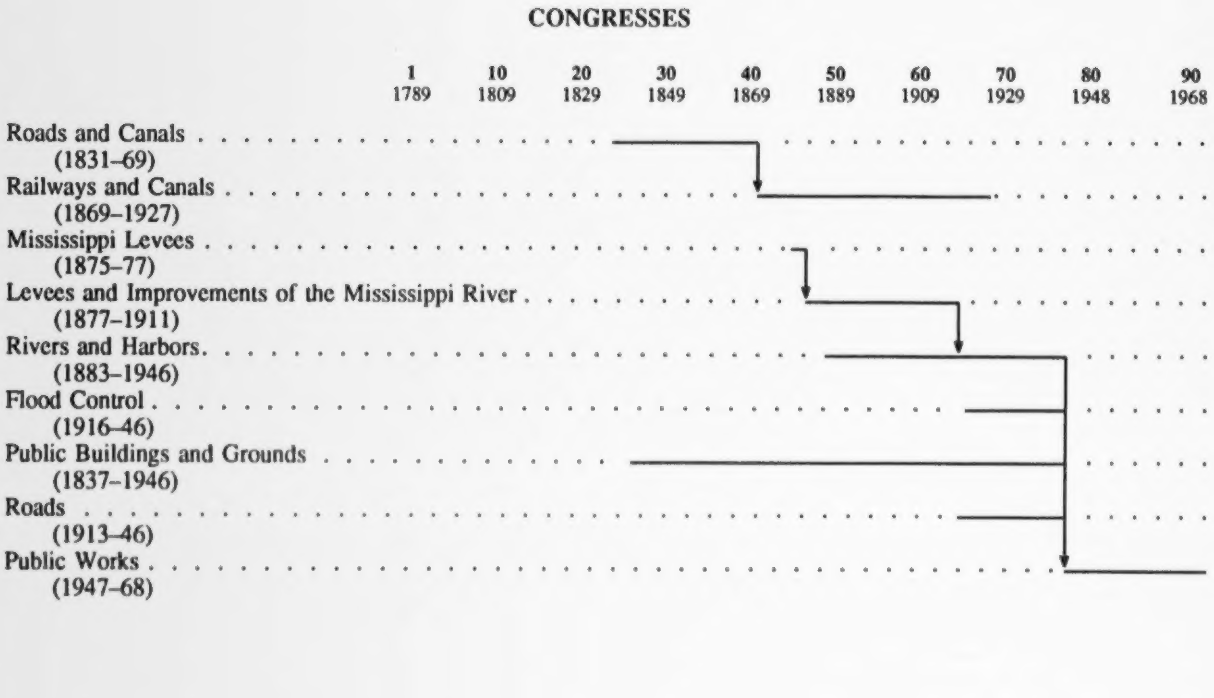
[2] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 350.

# Chapter 17

# RECORDS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES


CONGRESSES
1
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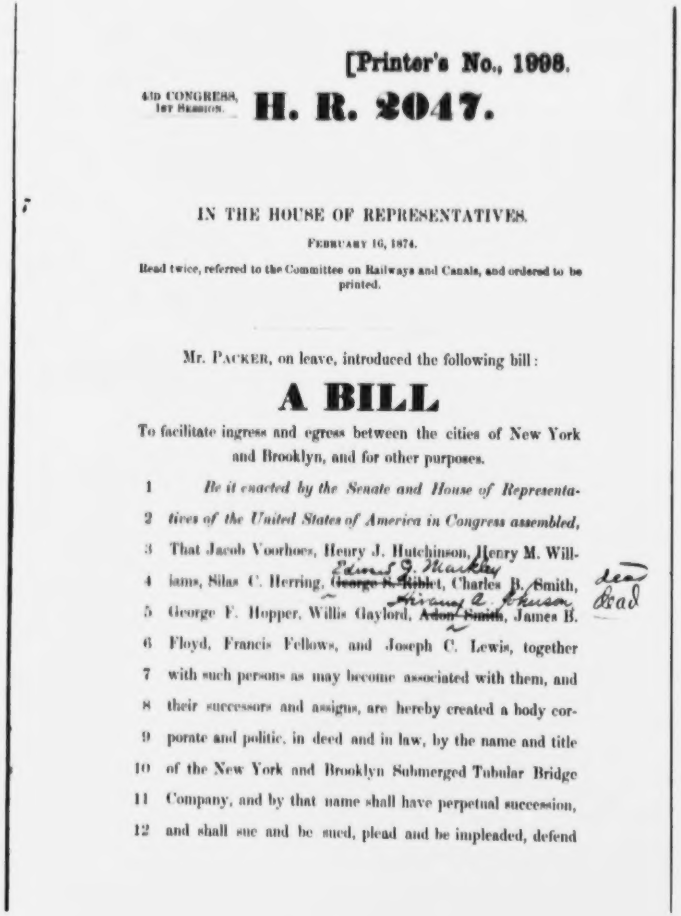
80
1948
90
1968
Roads and Canals
(1831–69)
Railways and Canals
(1869–1927)
Mississippi Levees
(1875–77)
Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River
(1877–1911)
Rivers and Harbors.
(1883–1946)
Flood Control
(1916–46)
Public Buildings and Grounds
(1837–1946)
Roads
(1913–46)
Public Works
(1947–68)



[Printer's No., 1998.

43D CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION.

**H. R. 2047.**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 16, 1874.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on Railways and Canals, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PACKER, on leave, introduced the following bill:

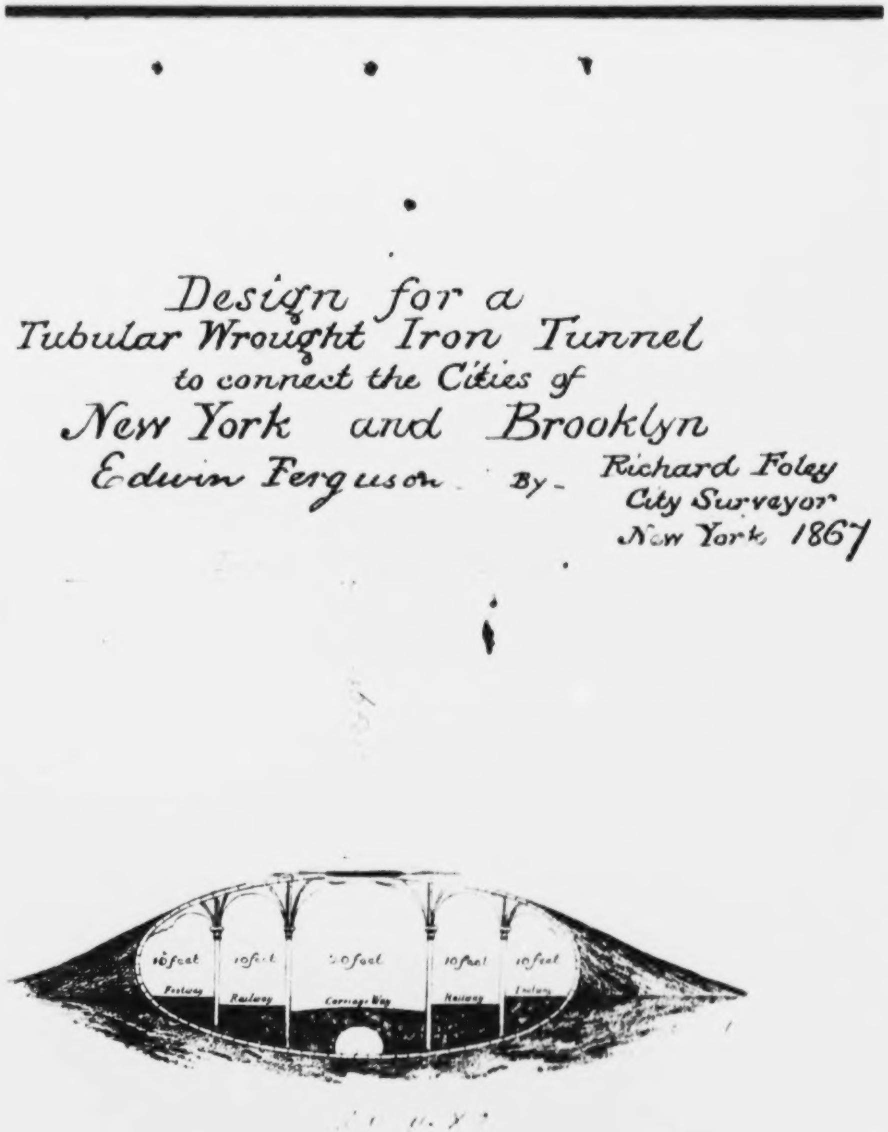
**A BILL**

To facilitate ingress and egress between the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Jacob Voorhees, Henry J. Hutchinson, Henry M. Williams, Silas C. Herring, Edwin J. Markley ~~George R. Riblet~~, Charles B. Smith, George F. Hopper, Willis Gaylord, Hiram A. Johnson ~~Adon Smith~~, James B. Floyd, Francis Fellows, and Joseph C. Lewis, together with such persons as may become associated with them, and their successors and assigns, are hereby created a body corporate and politic, in deed and in law, by the name and title of the New York and Brooklyn Submerged Tubular Bridge Company, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and shall sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend

dead
dead

*The records relating to H.R. 2047 include a drawing of the proposed "Tubular Wrought Iron Tunnel" intended to connect New York City and Brooklyn. The bill was referred to the Committee on Railways and Canals where it died. (43A-F25.1)*



Design for a
Tubular Wrought Iron Tunnel
to connect the Cities of
New York and Brooklyn
Edwin Ferguson By - Richard Foley
City Surveyor
New York 1867

# CHAPTER 17

# RECORDS OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEES

### *Introduction*

**17.1** The Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 established the Public Works Committee by combining the jurisdiction of four standing committees—Public Buildings and Grounds, Rivers and Harbors, Roads, and Flood Control. This chapter describes the records of these committees, as well as those of four related committees established in the 19th century, but terminated prior to World War II: Roads and Canals (1831-1869), Railways and Canals (1869-1927), Mississippi Levees (1875-77), and Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River (1877-1911).

## Committee on Roads and Canals, 1831-69

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.2** The committee originated as a select Committee on Roads and Canals during the 14th Congress (1815) and was appointed at each succeeding Congress until December 1831 when Charles Mercer of Virginia made a motion to establish a standing committee on the subject. Although an objection was raised that the select committee had managed the subject adequately, and that the establishment of a standing committee on roads and canals would "lead to the impression that the House was disposed to systematize internal improvement, and with it the present high duties on imports, &c.," the motion to create the standing committee passed by a vote of 96 to 90.[1] During the 25th Congress (1837-39) the House rejected a proposal to change the name to the Committee on Public Improvement, but in 1869 it approved a motion to change the name to the Committee on Railways and Canals, the records of which are described later in this chapter.

**17.3** The committee reported legislation concerning the survey, construction, and improvement of canals within the United States as well as a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The committee's jurisdiction also included improvements in river navigation, construction of bridges over rivers, maintenance of breakwaters and harbors associated with water routes, and the subscription of the United States to capital stock in canal companies. It reported proposals for the construction of roads, such as the Cumberland Road and a Columbus and Sandusky Turnpike, and methods of financing them, primarily through land-grants. As early as the 20th Congress (1827-28) the committee reported legislation to aid the construction of railroads including the granting of charters to railroad companies.

*Records of the Select and Standing Committees on Roads and Canals, 14th-40th Congresses (1815-1869)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Book | 1 vol. | 1867-69 | 40th |
| Docket Books | 4 vol. | 1849-51, 1853-57<br>1867-69 | 31st, 33d-34th<br>40th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 5 ft. | 1815-29, 1831-69 | 14th-20th, 22d-40th |
| Comm. Papers | 1 ft. | 1815-17, 1819-29<br>1833-53, 1867-69 | 14th, 16th-20th<br>23d-32d, 40th |
| TOTAL: | 6 ft. and 5 vol. (5 in.) | | |

**17.4** The sole **minute book** contains brief entries on 45 meetings held during the 40th Congress between December 1867 and February 1869.

**17.5** Most of the chronologically listed entries in the **docket book** for the 31st Congress (1849-51) are for petitions and memorials rather than for bills. Docket entries for the 33d and 40th Congresses are also listed in chronological order. The volume for the 34th Congress (1855-57) contains 14 entries arranged in alphabetical order by State.

**17.6** More than half of the **petitions and memorials** are from the 20th through the 25th Congresses (1827-39). Petitions from this period called for the surveying, construction and/or Government purchase of specific canals and roads, including the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal (14A—F14.1, 16A-G19.1), the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (19A-G19.1, 23A-G18.1), the Louisville and Portland Canal (23A-G18.2, 24A-G19.1, 25A-G21.1), and roads from Columbus, OH to Frankfort, KY (24A-G19.6), from Springfield, OH to Richmond, IN (24A-G19.7) and from Zanesville, OH to Maysville, KY (24A-G19.8). Other subjects in the petition and memorial file include the construction of a canal around the falls of the Ohio River on the Indiana side, 1837-56 (24A-G19.2, 25A-G21.1, 26A-G23.1, 27A-G23.1, 29A-G20.2, 32A-G22.3, 33A-G23.2, 34A-G20.1) and one around Niagara Falls, 1837-64 (25A-G21.1, 26A-G23.1, 33A-G23.1, 37A-G18.2, 38A-G22.1); and the building of a railroad to the Pacific Ocean, 1849-63 (31A-G21.1, 32A-G22.2, 37A-G18.2). Petitions from the 29th Congress (1845-47) illustrate the diversity of subjects that the committee considered—bridges, canals, railroads, river and harbor surveys and improvements, and roads (29A-G20.1 through 29A-G20.5). Many of the petitions and memorials referred to the committee are prefaced with a statement that since the public debt was being retired, funds could be used for internal improvements.

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[1] *Register of Debates*, 22d Cong., 1st sess., Dec. 13, 1831, p. 1438.

**17.7** The **committee papers**—primarily correspondence and committee reports—are most numerous for the 19th, 20th, and 23d Congresses (1825-29 and 1833-35). Two of the subjects with greatest documentation are the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (19A-D20.1) and a proposed stone bridge across the Potomac at Washington, DC (23A-D20.1); the files include plans, estimates of costs, reports and correspondence. A general file on canals from the 20th Congress (20A-D22.2) contains documents concerning the construction of the Blackstone Canal between Providence, RI, and Worcester, MA. Subjects in committee papers often refer directly to counterparts in the petitions and memorials files.

## Committee on Railways and Canals (1869-1927)

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.8** On April 9, 1869, the name of the Committee on Roads and Canals (1831-69) was changed to the Committee on Railways and Canals. Its jurisdiction—over matters relating to roads and canals, and the improvement of navigation of rivers—remained the same. Over the years the committee's jurisdiction contracted significantly. Responsibility for the improvement of navigation of rivers was removed in 1880 and given to the Committee on Commerce, because most bills relating to that subject were already being sent to that committee. Also, the 1880 House rule stated that the Committee on Railways and Canals had jurisdiction over "railways and canals other than Pacific railroads";[2] beginning in the 1880's, however, jurisdiction on most matters relating to railroads was taken over by the Committee on Commerce, renamed in 1892 the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. In 1927 the Committee on Railways and Canals was dissolved and its jurisdiction added to that of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. No records exist for the last 18 years of the committee's existence.

***Records of the Committee on Railways and Canals, 41st-70th Congresses (1869-1927)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 11 vols. | 1875-1903 | 44th-57th |
| Docket Books | 11 vols. | 1869-77, 1881-85<br>1889-1901 | 41st-44th, 47th-48th<br>51st-56th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 15 in. | 1869-71, 1873-93<br>1895-1903 | 41st, 43d-52d<br>54th-57th |
| Comm. Papers | 6 in. | 1871-75, 1877-89<br>1893-1903 | 42d-43d, 45th-50th<br>53d-57th |
| Bill Files | <1 in. | 1903-5, 1907-9 | 58th, 60th |
| TOTAL: | 2 ft. and 26 vols. (2 ft.) | | |

**17.9** The earliest **minute book** covers the 44th through the 46th Congresses (1875-81). Minutes give the dates of committee meetings, list those present, tell which measures were discussed, and indicate what was decided. Entries for April-June 1880 are particularly complete. The minutes document committee interests, including a ship canal around Niagara Falls in the 41st, 51st, and 52d Congresses (1867-69, 1889-93); a toll free canal running from the Chesapeake Bay to the Delaware Bay in the 46th, 47th, 50th, and 56th Congresses (1879-83, 1887-89, and 1899-1901); construction of the Ohio and Erie Canal in the 54th and 57th Congresses (1905-07, 1901-03); and railroad safety in the 51st Congress (1889-91).

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[2] *Congressional Record*, 46th Cong., 2d sess., Jan. 6, 1880, p. 205.

**17.10** The earliest **docket book** contains entries for the 41st and 42d Congresses (1869-73). Typically a docket entry will give the measure's date of introduction, the name of the Representative introducing it, its subject matter, and sometimes its disposition.

**17.11** Most of the **petitions and memorials** referred to this committee concern proposals for Government assistance for the construction of canals and railways. Petitions and memorials on several subjects were presented to Congress over extended periods of time including requests concerning a canal from Rock Island on the Mississippi River to Hennepin on the Illinois River, 1874-1890 (43A-H16.1, 44A-H16.1, 45A-H21.1, 47A-H20.4, 48A-H26.2, 49A-H21.1, 51A-H20.1) and a toll free canal from the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland to the Delaware Bay, 1874-1900 (43A-H16.5, 46A-G22.5, 47A-H20.1, 56A-H25.1). Memorials concerning the introduction of uniform freight rates for railroads engaged in interstate commerce were received between 1879 and 1897 (45A-H21.3, 46A-H22.3, 47A-H20.3, 54A-H29.1).

**17.12** Many other canal and railroad projects are the subject of extant petitions and memorials, with the greatest numbers relating to the construction of a double-track freight railway from "tide-water" to the Missouri River, 1873-75 (43A-H16.2); the granting of right-of-way through Indian Territory for the Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas Railway, 1883-85 (48A-H26.3); and the protection of trainmen and other railroad employees who worked with locomotives, freight trains, and freight cars engaged in interstate commerce, 1889-1891 (51A-H20.1).

**17.13** **Committee papers** contain correspondence, copies of bills and resolutions, newspaper clippings, and occasionally maps, drawings and blueprints of proposed construction projects. Maps and drawings accompany records of the 43d Congress (1873-75) concerning plans for a horse railway over bridges connecting Rock Island, IL and Davenport, IA (43A-F25.2) and a tunnel under the East River to connect New York and Brooklyn (43A-F25.3). A file from the 48th Congress (1883-85) on the proposed cession of the Illinois and Michigan Canal to the United States by the State of Illinois (48A-F32.1) includes a signed Presidential message from Chester A. Arthur, as well as a large map and correspondence from several sources, including the War Department.

**17.14** Subjects on which substantial documentation is found in the committee papers are the Ohio and Erie Canal, 1895-1901 (54A-F38.1, 55A-F35.1, 56A-F35.1); the Hennepin Canal, 1874-85 (43A-F25.2, 48A-F32.1); improvements in the Dismal Swamp Canal between the Chesapeake Bay and the North Carolina Sound, 1877-81 (45A-F31.2, 46A-F32.3); and railroad safety, 1879-83 (46A-F32.8, 47A-F27.1).

**17.15** The **bill files** from the 58th and 60th Congresses (1903-5 and 1907-9) consist solely of printed copies of several bills.

## Committee on the Mississippi Levees, 1875-77

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.16** The committee was established during the 44th Congress on December 10, 1875, at the prompting of Representative Randall Gibson of Louisiana, to inquire into building and repairing levees on the Mississippi River. On November 7, 1877, the committee's name was changed to the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River.

### *Records of the Committee on the Mississippi Levees, 44th Congress (1875-77)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Docket Book | 1 vol. | 1876-77 | 44th |
| Comm. Papers | <1 in. | 1876 | 44th |
| TOTAL: <1 in. and 1 vol. (1 in.) | | | |

**17.17** Very few records of the committee survive. The single **docket book** contains only six brief entries between January, 1876 and February, 1877. A slender envelope of **committee papers** (44A-F22.1) includes an 1876 resolution of the Louisiana General Assembly favoring construction of levees on the Mississippi and an 1876 House resolution to authorize a trip by a subcommittee to inspect the levees on the Mississippi with the stipulation that the trip would not be at public expense.

## Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River, 1877-1911

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.18** The committee was established November 7, 1877, in the 45th Congress. This was done by changing the name of its predecessor, the Committee on the Mississippi Levees. The purposes of the committee included building and repairing levees as well as making other improvements on the Mississippi River. The committee was terminated in the 62d Congress on April 5, 1911. Its successor was the Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

### *Records of the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River, 45th-61st Congresses (1877-1911)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 3 vols. | 1889-93, 1911 | 51st-52d, 61st |
| Docket Books | 5 vols. | 1877-79, 1883-85, 1889-93, 1907-11 | 45th & 48th, 51st-52d, 60th-61st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 in. | 1881-85, 1889-91 1909-11 | 47th-48th, 51st 61st |
| Comm. Papers | 1 in. | 1883-85, 1891-93 1907-11 | 48th, 52d 60th-61st |
| Bill Files | 1 in. | 1911 | 61st |
| TOTAL: | 3 in. and 8 vols. (8 in.) | | |

**17.19** The **minute books** contain cursory summaries of a few committee meetings. For example, the volume for the 61st Congress includes minutes for only one meeting. The **docket books** include one volume with entries for the 45th Congress and the first session of the 48th Congress; its spine is mislabeled "Minutes."

**17.20** The small quantity of **petitions and memorials** include appeals from State legislatures, city governments, and business groups for various projects to improve navigation and stream control on the Mississippi River. One unusual 1890 petition was signed by the "colored citizens" of six counties in the State of Mississippi (51A-H12.1).

**17.21** The minuscule collection of **committee papers** includes some committee prints of bills and resolutions. There is also a small group of papers from 1884 of Representative John Floyd King of Louisiana (48A-F18.2) and a bundle of blueprints from 1892 for levees from Memphis to Vicksburg (52A-F24.1).

**17.22** **Bill files** exist only for the 61st Congress (1909-11). They include a hearing transcript and reports from the Chief of Engineers and from the Rock Island office of the Corps of Engineers on relief for the Sny Levee District in Illinois (61A-D10).

## Committee on Rivers and Harbors, 1883-1946

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.23** Authorized early in the 48th Congress in December 1883, the committee was given jurisdiction over subjects relating to the improvements of rivers and harbors and had the responsibility of reporting the river and harbor bill, which previously had been handled by the Committee on Commerce. The committee's jurisdiction changed over time. When the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River was terminated in 1911 its responsibilities were transferred to the Committee on Rivers and Harbors. In 1916 the subject of flood control was removed from the committee's authority and assigned to the new Committee on Flood Control. After 1920 the committee could no longer report appropriation bills for rivers and harbors and its legislative authority was limited to reporting only bills that authorized improvements to rivers and harbors.

**17.24** These shifts in authority still left many subjects within the jurisdiction of the committee. These included improvement of watersheds and dams thereon, construction of locks on navigable streams, construction and maintenance of equipment for river improvements, erosion of banks on navigable streams, pollution of navigable waters, intrastate inland waterways, and navigation of international boundary streams. The committee was terminated early in the 80th Congress on January 3, 1947. Its successor was the Committee on Public Works.

### *Records of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, 48th-79th Congresses (1883-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 8 vols. | 1883-1901 | 48th-56th |
| Docket Books | 9 vols. | 1883-95 | 48th-53rd |
| | | 1897-1901 | 55th-56th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 11 ft. | 1883-1946 | 48th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 25 ft. | 1883-1917 | 48th-64th |
| | | 1919-27, 1929-31 | 66th-69th, 71st |
| | | 1933-46 | 73d-79th |
| Bill Files | 12 ft. | 1903-17 | 58th-64th |
| | | 1919-46 | 66th-79th |

TOTAL: 48 ft. and 17 vols. (2 ft.)

**17.25** The **minute books** contain cursory minutes of committee meetings. The first minute volume includes minutes from both the 48th and 49th Congresses (1883-87). The volumes for the 51st and 54th Congresses (1889-91, 1895-1897) list the names of all the committee members. The docket books contain listings of bills, petitions, and resolutions referred to the committee.

**17.26** The **petitions and memorials** typically reflect the support of State legislatures, local governments, business associations, and civic groups for river and harbor projects throughout the United States. Some examples of the variety of projects include improvements on New York City's Harlem River (48A-H28.1), a deep water port at Galveston (51A-H21.2), improvements to navigation on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers (61A-H32.1), and a Florida ship canal which drew the opposition of the Ecological Society of America in 1937 (75A-H17.1). Maps concerning a seaway from the Great Lakes through Pittsburgh to the Chesapeake Bay are in files of the 77th Congress (77A-H18.2). Petitions and resolutions from 1917 to 1946 concerning a Saint Lawrence River waterway are in many files from the 65th through the 79th Congresses. Concern about water pollution is reflected in the State of New Jersey's 1924 opposition to the discharge of fuel oil in the Atlantic Ocean near its resort beaches (68A-H18.1) and in 1940 petitions for and against the Barkley bill on stream pollution, S. 685, in the files of the 76th Congress (76A-H23.1).

**17.27** The **committee papers** contain a large quantity of printed committee and House documents including bills, hearings, and reports. Reports and letters of the Chief of Engineers concerning many projects are found in the papers of numerous Congresses. Also included are summary minutes of the committee for 1939-40 (76A-F37.2) and for February-June, 1942 (77A-F34.2). A committee docket index for 1945-46 is in the papers of the 79th Congress (79A-F34.1). The papers of the earlier Congresses include significant numbers of items from citizens outside the Government. For example, the papers of the 49th Congress, 1885-87 (49A-F34.1) include a speech by the president of the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce concerning work on the Monongahela River while the papers of the 53d Congress, 1893-95 (53A-F42.1) include maps, charts, and petitions from business groups favoring projects on Mobile Bay, the Pine River in Michigan, and the Umpqua River in Oregon. A transcript of an 1884 hearing contains the views of noted engineer Captain James B. Eads on improving the harbor at Galveston (48A-F34.1).

**17.28** The **bill files** frequently contain only printed copies of the bills and other printed documents, such as hearings. Some files also contain petitions from groups outside the Government. The bills concern projects throughout the Nation and the full range of subjects within the committee's jurisdiction. For example, there are several files on bills to control water pollution, including a 1921-22 file on H.R. 7369 (67A-D33), a 1926-27 file on H.R. 9570 and H.R. 13142 in the 69th Congress (69A-D30), a 1936 file on H.R. 12101 (74A-D34), and a 1939-40 file in the 76th Congress on the Barkley anti-pollution bill, S. 685 (76A-D34).

## Committee on Flood Control, 1916-46

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.29** The committee was authorized February 3, 1916, early in the 64th Congress, and was given jurisdiction over subjects relating to flood control. In the previous two Congresses such flood control matters had been entirely under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, and some flood control issues had been in the jurisdiction of the Committee on Levees and Improvements of the Mississippi River before that committee was abolished in 1911. The Committee on Flood Control was terminated early in the 80th Congress on January 3, 1947. Its successor was the Committee on Public Works.

### *Records of the Committee on Flood Control, 64th-79th Congresses (1916-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 2 in. | 1915-17, 1921-23<br>1925-27, 1933-36 | 64th, 67th, 69th<br>73d-74th |
| Comm. Papers | 5 ft. | 1915-17, 1919-21<br>1923-31, 1933-46 | 64th, 66th,<br>68th-71st, 73rd-79th |
| Bill Files | 4 ft. | 1919-27, 1929-46 | 66th-69th, 71st-79th |
| TOTAL: | 9 ft. | | |

**17.30** The **petitions and memorials** reflect support by State legislatures, local governments, business associations, and civic groups for flood control projects on many rivers across the country. A petition from the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club in 1927 supports emergency action to protect California's Imperial Valley from anticipated flooding by the Colorado River (69A-H2.1), and other petitions concern projects on the Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri, and Mohawk rivers.

**17.31** **Committee papers** include copies of printed bills, resolutions, hearings, and other House documents. Many of these printed House documents are reports by the Chief of Engineers on various flood control projects over a wide geographic range. Papers of the 64th Congress, 1916-17, include maps and photographs of several rivers (64A-F12.1 through 64A-F12.4); papers for the 75th Congress, 1937-38, include typed copies of unprinted reports on Schoharie Creek and tributaries in New York and the Sacramento and San Joaquin River System in California (75A-F15.1). Papers of the 78th Congress, 1943-44 (78A-F14.3) and of the 79th Congress, 1945-46 (79A-F 14.1) include lists of bills referred to the committee and copies of resolutions adopted by the committee, and, for the 78th Congress only, printed and unprinted reports. Among the printed House documents for the 78th Congress are reports, complete with index, from the Chief of Engineers, 1943-44 (78A-F14.2).

**17.32** The **bill files** include printed bills within the jurisdiction of the committee and supporting documents. Typical supporting documents are printed hearings and reports as well as short letters from the Secretary of War, who was responsible for the Corps of Engineers, stating the executive branch's views for or against the bills. In the bill files of the 67th Congress are photographs and maps of the Mississippi River from 1922 (67A-D9).

## Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, 1837-1946

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.33.** The standing Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds was established in 1837, replacing the Select Committee on Public Buildings which had been created in 1819. This new five-member committee was empowered "to consider all subjects relating to the public edifices and grounds within the city of Washington which may be referred to them, and report their opinion thereon, together with such propositions relating thereto as may seem to them expedient."[3] In 1871, Representative Henry L. Dawes of Massachusetts presented a resolution which increased membership on the committee to nine and gave it jurisdiction over "all the public buildings constructed by the United States."[4]

**17.34** Further changes were made in 1880, when the committee was expanded to 16 members and its jurisdiction expanded to cover "the public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States, other than appropriations therefor."[5] The jurisdiction of the committee did not change after 1880, but the number of members was increased several times.

**17.35** The committee reported legislation for the construction throughout the country of public buildings, including customs houses, post offices, and Federal court houses; the erection of monuments and memorials; the purchase of property for public use; improvements to public property; and compensation for workers erecting public buildings. During the early years of the committee, much of the legislation reported had to do with constructing and improving public buildings in Washington, DC and commissioning artists to create art work for those buildings.

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[3] *Congressional Globe*, 25th Cong., 1st sess., Sept. 15, 1837, p. 34.
[4] *Congressional Globe*, 42d Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 10, 1871, p. 53.
[5] *Congressional Globe*, 46th Cong., 2d sess., Jan. 6, 1880, p. 205.

### *Records of the Select Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, 16th-24th Congresses (1819-37), and the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, 25th-79th Congresses (1837-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 22 vols. | 1871-1901, 1903-5<br>1907-9, 1911-13<br>1919-34, 1941-42 | 42d-56th, 58th<br>60th, 62d<br>66th-73d, 77th |
| Docket Books | 30 vols. | 1839-47, 1851-55<br>1871-75, 1877-1903<br>1905-11, 1925-36<br>1941-42 | 26th-29th, 32d-33d<br>42d-43d, 45th-57th<br>59th-61st, 69th-74th<br>77th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 7 ft. | 1819-21, 1823-33<br>1835-67, 1875-81<br>1883-89, 1893-95<br>1897-1901, 1907-15<br>1917-23, 1927-38 | 16th, 18th-22d<br>24th-39th, 44th-46th<br>48th-50th, 53d<br>55th-56th, 63d<br>65th-67th, 70th-75th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1819-25, 1827-29<br>1833-55, 1859-1938<br>1941-46 | 16th-18th, 20th<br>23th-33d, 36th-75th<br>77th-79th |
| Bill Files | 41 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 51 ft. and 52 vols. (4 ft.) | | |

**17.36** The **minute books** contain information on appointments made to the committee and its subcommittees, meeting times, attendance at meetings, legislation and amendments considered, yea-nay votes, committee resolutions, and reports of subcommittees. Some minute books have annotations of topics in the left margins, and/or alphabetical indexes. Alphabetical indexes are by topic and by the name of the city where a project was to be located.

**17.37** Both scheduled and special meetings are documented. Special meetings were sometimes called to hear requests from individuals or groups outside the Washington area. Minutes for the 47th through 53d, 62d, and 66th Congresses (1881-95, 1911-13, and 1919-21) record meetings held weekly, if not more often during the various sessions of Congress, but those for the 60th Congress (1907-09) list only seven meetings during the entire Congress.

**17.38** The **docket books** generally list in numerical order the petitions, memorials, bills, resolutions, and other documents referred to the committee, although entries for a few Congresses are arranged by State. Some docket volumes have entries which report committee activities, record committee votes, and identify members who spoke in favor of certain bills. The amount of detail varies greatly from one docket book to another.

**17.39** The **petitions and memorials** contain a wide variety of requests from all sections of the country. During the committee's first 40 years (1837-1877) many petitions dealt with public buildings and other structures in the Washington, DC area. Most of these petitions were received from workers, artists, and other private citizens, some from outside the city. The committee received a number of petitions, some from well-known architects such as Robert Mills and William Strickland, which dealt with warming, cooling, and ventilating the Capitol (27A-G18.1, 28A-G18.1) and the expansion and remodeling of the building and grounds (31A-G17.1, 34A-G16.1, 35A-G19.1, 44A-H14.1). Other subjects mentioned in petitions include a bridge over the Potomac (29A-G16.1, 32A-G18.1), a park (39A-H20.1), and fire-proofing (25A-G17.1, 26A-G17.1). After 1877 the quantity of petitions concerning public buildings in Washington, DC decreased. Petitions after 1897 document support for a Hall of Records, backed by the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio, the German American Historical Society, the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, and Gaillard Hunt of the Library of Congress (55A-H23.1, 62A-H25.2); the Park Commission's plan for Washington, DC, supported in 1908 by both the T Square Club of Philadelphia and the Boston Architectural Club (60A-H30.1); and an American Indian Memorial and Museum Building, supported in 1912 by the Improved Order of Red Men and citizens from several States (62A-H25.1).

**17.40** From 1875 to 1889 the committee received a significant number of petitions from cities requesting public buildings. Some, including those from San Francisco in 1884 (48A-H24.1) and Lynn, MA in 1883 (50A-H24.1), contain thousands of signatures. Several petitions from this period suggest that a formula based on municipal populations be used to determine the location and cost of Federal buildings. The formula, it is argued, would be preferable to the prevailing practice of providing for specific buildings by means of special legislation (50A-H24.1). Very few petitions exist for most years between 1889 and 1907, but many requests for public buildings were received between 1907 and 1938. During the 1930's petitions requested that public buildings be designed by local architects, rather than architects employed by the Treasury Department (72A-H13.1), and that local materials be used (73A-H18.1, 74A-H15.1, 75A-H15.1).

**17.41** Petitions also concerned monuments and memorials. Petitioners proposed monuments to George Washington in 1838 (25A-G17.1), to the signers of the Declaration of Independence in 1846 (29A-G16.1), and to the Marquis de Lafayette and other French officers who fought during the American Revolutionary War in 1875 (44A-H14.2). One petition, dated 1848, requests that the Federal Government purchase Mount Vernon as a memorial to George Washington (30A-G17.1). This subject came up again in the early 1900's (62A-H25.2, 66A-H16.1). Other petitions include an 1898 request from the Vermont Society of Colonial Wars for the Federal Government to purchase and restore Fort Ticonderoga (55A-H23.3) and a 1930 request from a chapter of the American Association of Engineers for the Federal Government to purchase the building in Georgetown in the District of Columbia that George Washington had used as his office while surveying the area (71A-H15.1). Proposals in the 1910's support plans to construct the Lincoln Memorial (62A-H25.2, 63A-H23.2) and to preserve the Washington Monument (66A-H16.1).

**17.42** During its first half century (1837-77) the committee handled petitions concerning labor problems and requests for compensation. Groups of workers petitioned the committee for more pay (27A-G18.1, 35A-G19.1, 44A-H14.3) and fewer hours (25A-G17.1). Some petitioned for payment for services rendered, such as performing extra duties (29A-G16.1, 36A-G16.1) and painting the Capitol (30A-G17.1, 37A-G14.1). Others sought compensation for job-related injuries or fatalities. Samuel Atchisson, whose hand had been crushed while he was working on the Treasury Building, asked for $1,000 in 1839 to start a small business (26A-G17.1). Atchisson's file contains his petition, letters from two doctors certifying that he was disabled for life, and a statement from his supervisor that the accident had not been Atchisson's fault. Another individual petitioned the committee for compensation after his son, who was his source of support, was killed while helping construct the Patent Office (26A-G17.1).

**17.43** Petitions received in the late 1890's from religious and temperance organizations supporting legislation forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquor in Government buildings (55A-H23.2) comprise the greatest number of petitions the committee received on a single subject. Other petitions relate to promotions for mechanical voting devices for the House, 1846-76 (29A-G16.1, 30A-G17.1, 44A-H14.3); an 1877 request from the city of Philadelphia that it be allowed to keep the Declaration of Independence on permanent display (44A-H14.2); and a suggestion during World War I by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that more housing be built in war production areas (65A-H15.1).

**17.44** The **committee papers** generally contain correspondence, reports, and other documents relating to subjects under the jurisdiction of the committee, including many topics found in the petitions and memorials.

**17.45** A great number of committee papers pertain to the construction of public buildings in Washington, DC. Construction of the Treasury Building (25A-D20.1, 25A-D20.4, 27A-D17.1, 29A-D17.1) and the Patent Office Building (25A-D20.1, 25A-D20.4) are well documented in the records from the committee's first decade, 1837-47. Cost estimates and appropriation requests are available for many years between 1837 and 1871, but rarely thereafter, for altering, improving, and furnishing the Capitol, White House, and several other public buildings (25A-D20.3, 26A-D21.2, 27A-D17.1, 29A-D17.1, 32A-D16.2, 38A-E17.1, 41A-F21.3). During this same period there are a number of documents concerning the poor ventilation in the chamber of the House of Representatives (25A-D20.4, 27A-D17.1, 28A-D23.1, 38A-E17.1, 39A-F22.1, 40A-F21.5).

**17.46** After 1871, committee papers cover proposals from Government agencies for a Hall of Records, 1879-1931 (45A-F28.2, 47A-F24.3, 54A-F36.1, 60A-F43.2); rent costs and space requirements of agencies of the Federal Government, 1878-1914 (45A-F28.8, 47A-F24.5, 58A-F30.1, 63A-F31.1); and housing for Government officials, 1921-1931 (67A-F34.1, 70A-F29.1, 71A-F31.1).

**17.47** Committee papers relating to public buildings outside of Washington, DC do not appear until about 1875, when debate centered on whether to construct new buildings or to continue to pay rent for space used by the Government (44A-F29.2). Files concerning these legislative proposals contain copies of the bills, committee reports, and a variety of other documents. Within the files are requests for compensation for sidewalks and other improvements made to property around public buildings (46A-F29.3), reports and communications from the Treasury Department and other Federal agencies on criteria to be used to determine which cities would receive public buildings (51A-F33.1), and records of the committee's inspection tour of Norfolk, VA and vicinity in 1941 (77A-F31.1).

**17.48** Most committee papers concerning monuments and memorials date from 1837 to 1855. Questions involving statues of Thomas Jefferson for the Library of Congress (25A-D20.4) and George Washington for the Capitol Rotunda (26A-D21.2) were discussed by the committee as well as a proposed National Mausoleum for the burial of presidents and those Members of Congress who died in office (31A-D17.1). One proposal from the 1850's, complete with drawings, calls for the erection of a monument to be entitled Union Chain, which would symbolize "the Never-Ending Union of the American States" (33A-D15.1).

**17.49** The committee papers contain correspondence, hearings, and reports of committee investigations of misconduct charges against public officials. In the 1860's the committee investigated charges against both Captain Montgomery Meigs, Superintendent of Public Buildings, (38A-E17.1) and Silas Seymour, Chief Engineer and General Superintendent of the Washington Aqueduct (38A-E17.5). Between 1867 and 1879 the committee studied charges against Nathaniel Michler, Commissioner of Public Buildings (40A-F21.4), Samuel McCullogh, a Superintendent at San Francisco (44A-F29.5, 45A-F28.4), and Edward Clark, Architect of the Capitol (45A-F28.1). Documents for the Clark case include transcripts of testimony before the committee, letters from Frederick Law Olmsted and others who supported Clark, and the findings of the committee.

**17.50** For the period 1837 to 1870 the committee papers contain information on labor problems of workers constructing public buildings and making improvements in Washington, DC (25A-D20.4, 26A-D21.2), requests for compensation (25A-D20.4, 27A-D17.1), the purchase of additional space for Government operations (31A-D17.1, 32A-D16.1), and, in 1866, the need of a new house for the President (39A-F22.4). Following 1870, documents are available covering methods for fire-proofing buildings (45A-F28.1, 63A-F31.1, 66A-F33.1), expenses incurred at the Executive Mansion in connection with the final illness and death of President James A. Garfield (50A-F32.1), locating a summer residence for the President (54A-F36.1, 70A-F29.1), and the shortage of family housing across the country (79A-F32.1).

**17.51** The **bill files** for the committee contain printed copies of bills, correspondence, printed and unprinted transcripts of hearings, reports, and other documents concerning particular bills. Much of the correspondence related to bills providing for public buildings for certain cities contains statistical data such as population figures, postal and tax receipts, and manufacturing capacity. A number of promotional pamphlets describing various cities are also in the bill files, as are many petitions and memorials concerning particular bills.

**17.52** For each Congress the bill files are arranged by type of legislation — House bills, House resolutions, House joint resolutions, House concurrent resolutions, Senate bills, and Senate joint resolutions. The arrangement thereunder varies according to Congress. Files for the 58th through 64th Congresses (1903-17) are arranged alphabetically by the city named in the bill if an appropriation for a public building is involved. Located at the end of the files are bills relating to Washington, DC and general legislation. The bill files for the 65th Congress (1917-19) are arranged alphabetically by State. For the 66th through 79th Congresses (1919-46) bill files are arranged by bill or resolution number.

**17.53** Bill files vary in completeness and content, but nearly every individual bill file contains a copy of the bill in question. Many files also have reports from the Treasury Department containing cost estimates and other information requested by the committee and/or correspondence related to the bill, often from Congressmen and other political and business figures. In some instances, site plans, drawings, and newspaper clippings are included, as well as hearings, reports, and petitions and memorials.

**17.54** The vast majority of bill files are for bills providing for the construction in a specific city of a public building, usually a post office or customs house. Other files with substantial documentation include: H.R. 7014, a 1919 bill creating a Bureau of Housing and Living Conditions within the Department of Labor (66A-D26); H.R. 1409 and S. 1129, bills introduced in 1935 to extend and complete the United States Capitol (74A-D32); and H.Res. 209 and H. Con. Res. 36, two 1941 resolutions to decentralize the Federal Government by moving those agencies that were least vital to the national defense out of Washington, DC (77A-D31).

## Committee on Roads, 1913-46

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.55** The Committee on Roads was created in 1913 with jurisdiction over matters relating "to the construction or maintenance of roads, other than appropriations therefor."[6] The statement outlining the committee's jurisdiction contained the proviso that measures for specific roads could not be included in bills for general legislation, nor could any bill relating to a specific road "embrace a provision in relation to any other specific road."[7] During the first decade of its existence, the committee reported bills authorizing aid to the States in the construction of rural post roads, and with the 1921 Federal Highway Act in the construction and maintenance of highways, forest roads, trails, and rural post roads. Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, the committee was disbanded and its jurisdiction included in those of the new Committee on Public Works.

### *Records of the Committee on Roads, 63d-79th Congresses (1913-46)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 3 vols. | 1913-17, 1929-31 | 63d-64th, 71st |
| Docket Books | 4 vols. | 1913-17, 1919-31 | 63d-64th, 66th-71st |
| Petitions & Mem. | 3 in. | 1913-17, 1919-25<br>1929-31, 1935-36<br>1939-41, 1943-46 | 63d-64th, 66th-68th<br>71st, 74th,<br>76th, 78th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 3 ft. | 1919-31, 1933-46 | 66th-71st, 73d-79th |
| Bill Files | 2 ft. | 1915-17, 1919-21<br>1923-31, 1933-46 | 64th, 66th<br>68th-71st, 73d-79th |
| TOTAL: | 5 ft. and 7 vols. (7 in.) | | |

**17.56 Minute books** exist for three Congresses only. Entries are typewritten on sheets that have been pasted into the volumes. The minutes record who was present and what was discussed, but lack substantive details.

**17.57 Separate docket** books exist for the 63d (1913-15) and the 64th (1915-17) Congresses. Two additional volumes contain docket entries for the 66th-71st Congresses (1919-1931) and the 70th-71st Congresses (1927-31). Duplicate entries exist for the 70th and 71st Congresses in the last two volumes. Entries are arranged by type of measure (H.R., H.J. Res., etc.) and thereunder in numerical order.

**17.58 Petitions and memorials** from the 63d (1913-15) and 66th (1919-21) Congresses (63A-H27.1, 66A-H19.1, 66A-H19.2, 66A-H19.3) account for more than half of the documents in this series. The majority of these petitions and memorials are resolutions from county and State officials calling either for the establishment of a national system of roads or Federal aid to states in the construction of roads.

**17.59** In general, **committee papers** contain the types of documents usually found in bill files: collections of printed copies of bills, some printed hearings, and occasional support documentation. Topics covered include legislative proposals for Federal highway aid, 1923-46 (68A-F37.1, 69A-F39.1, 70A-F30.2, 71A-F34.1, 74A-F35.1, 75A-F34.1, 76A-F38.1, 77A-F35.1, 78A-F34.1, 79A-F35.1); the extension of Federal highway aid to Alaska, 1923-46 (68A-F37.1, 73A-F26.1, 74A-F35.1, 75A-F34.1, 76A-F38.1, 79A-F35.1); the formation of the National Highway Commission, 1921-31 (67A-F37.1, 68A-F37.1, 71A-F34.1); compensation for money lost due to Federal funding on toll bridge routes, 1921-44 (76A-F38.1, 77A-F35.1, 78A-F34.1); and explanations of Federal funding on feeder, secondary, and farm-to-market roads, and on rural free delivery routes, 1937-42 (75A-F34.1, 76A-F38.1, 77A-F35.1). Nearly three-fourths of the total quantity of committee papers consists of a 12-volume set of aerial photographs for the Inter-American Highway, assembled in December 1933 by the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads (73A-F26.1).

**17.60** The **bill files** are arranged numerically by type of legislation, and contain printed copies of bills, correspondence, and copies of hearings—sometimes manuscript transcripts and sometimes committee prints. Most of the bill files are for the 75th-78th Congresses (1937-1944). The main topic of committee interest, as documented by the bill files, was Federal aid for public highways, 1915-46 (64A-D22, 66A-D29, 68A-D32, 74A-D35, 75A-D34, 76A-D35, 77A-D35, 78A-D31, 79A-D34).

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[6] *Congressional Record*, 63d Cong., 1st sess., June 2, 1913, p. 1857.

[7] Ibid.

## Committee on Public Works, 1947-68

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**17.61** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the Committees on Public Buildings and Grounds, Rivers and Harbors, Roads, and Flood Control were combined to form the Committee on Public Works. Its jurisdiction from the beginning of the 80th Congress (1947-48) through the 90th Congress (1967-68) remained the same:

> (a) Flood control and improvement of rivers and harbors. (b) Measures relating to the Capitol Building and the Senate and House Office Buildings. (c) Measures relating to the construction or maintenance of roads and post roads, other than appropriations therefor; but it shall not be in order for any bill providing general legislation in relation to roads to contain any provision for any specific road, nor for any bill in relation to a specific road to embrace a provision in relation to any other specific road. (d) Measures relating to the construction or reconstruction, maintenance, and care of the buildings and grounds of the Botanic Gardens, the Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian Institute. (e) Measures relating to the purchase of sites and construction of post offices, customhouses, Federal courthouses, and Government buildings within the District of Columbia. (f) Oil and other pollution of navigable waters. (g) Public buildings and occupied or improved grounds of the United States generally. (h) Public reservations and parks within the District of Columbia, including Rock Creek Park and the Zoological Park. (i) Public works for the benefit of navigation, including bridges and dams (other than international bridges and dams). (j) Water power.[8]

**17.62** The four original committees retained their separate identities but were reduced to subcommittees. In addition, the committee created subcommittees for Beach Erosion, 80th Congress (1947-48) and for Watershed Development, 86th-90th Congresses (1959-68). Special Subcommittees included those: to Investigate Questionable Trade Practices, 80th Congress; to Study Civil Works, 82nd Congress (1951-52); on the Federal-Aid Highway Program, 86th-90th Congresses; and on Economic Development Programs, 89th-90th Congresses (1965-68). Ad Hoc Committees were established on Montana Flood Damage, 88th Congress (1963-64); on Appalachian Regional Development, 88th-90th Congresses; and on the 1967 Alaska Exposition, 89th Congress.

### *Records of the Committee on Public Works, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 1 vol. | 1947-48 | 80th |
| Minutes | 32 ft. | 1949-68 | 81st-90th |
| Docket Books | 1 vol. | 1947-48 | 80th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 62 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 62 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: 160 ft. and 2 vols. (2 in.) | | | |

**17.63** The **minute book** for the 80th Congress (1947-48) includes separate sections of typed pages of minutes for the full committee followed by subcommittee minutes for Rivers and Harbors, Flood Control, Public Buildings and Grounds, Roads, Beach Erosion, and the Special Subcommittee to Investigate Questionable Trade Practices. These minutes give little more than the dates when the committee or subcommittee met and adjourned, the names of persons who were present, and the disposition of measures discussed. Unbound copies of minutes for the full committee for the 81st-86th Congresses are similar in format and content to those in the bound volume for the 80th Congress. For the 87th-90th Congresses the minutes greatly increase in quantity, since single-page sheets listing those present are affixed to transcripts of the meetings.

**17.64** The bulk of subcommittee minutes, which make up 19 feet of the total 32 feet of committee minutes, are actually transcripts of subcommittee hearings rather than minutes per se. The subcommittee records are discussed in more detail in paras. 17.72 to 17.74.

**17.65** The sole **docket book** among the committee's records is that for the 80th Congress (1947-48). Information given consists of the date legislation was introduced, the name of the Member who introduced it (or the author in the case of executive communications and petitions and memorials), subject matter with bill numbers where appropriate, and subsequent actions. The latter includes referral dates to agencies and their positions, dates of hearings, and dates of further legislative developments.

**17.66** While only one docket volume exists, docket information figures prominently in committee calendars. Final editions of the calendars are in the committee papers for all Congresses except the 83d

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[8] U.S. Congress House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States. Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, pp. 350-351.

(1953-54), for which there is an interim calendar; the 84th (1955-56); and the 89th (1965-66). The calendars give docket numbers under the following groups: bills by type (H.R., H.J. Res., etc.); status of bills reported to the House by the committee; numerical docket listings; executive communications; and indexes by subjects and by names of Representatives.

**17.67** The calendars also include complete listings of **petitions and memorials**, showing the date they were referred to the committee, by whom (most often the Speaker of the House), and the subject matter. The actual petitions and memorials, invariably 4 or 5 inches of documents per Congress, have each been placed within separate envelopes on which basic descriptive information has been written. For most Congresses memorials (generally documents from State legislatures) and petitions have been grouped in separate sets of roughly comparable size, each arranged in chronological order.

**17.68** For a typical Congress, such as the 88th Congress (1963-64), memorials came from the legislatures of Illinois, Idaho, Washington, Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, Colorado, Maine, California, Alaska, Massachusetts, Nevada, and Florida. Subjects covered included requests for a water pollution field control laboratory, the renaming of a dam in honor of a deceased Senator, authorization and appropriations for the reconstruction of a jetty to breakwater standards, an increase in the Federal portion of cost on Federal-aid primary and secondary highways, the payment of non-Federal costs in Federally approved water projects, completion of a particular U.S. Army Corps of Engineers investigation and the development of a favorable report, relocation of the Denver Mint, extension of the northern terminus of the Interstate and Defense Highway System in Maine, enactment of flood control appropriations for a particular county water agency, enactment of legislation extending financial aid to a State for purification of the waters of one of its rivers, and protection for the interests and rights of persons and villages affected by the Rampart Dam hydroelectric project (88 PW.3). Petitions in the 88th Congress oppose the proposed removal of responsibility for water pollution control from the U.S. Public Health Service, and request a flood control project along Pinal Creek in Arizona, the naming of a bridge in honor of Estes Kefauver, the establishment of a mint in Chicago, and financial aid for sewage and pollution control (88 PW.3).

**17.69** With but few exceptions **committee papers** for the full committee consist of survey resolution dockets, executive communications, calendars, and copies of printed hearings. In quantity the survey resolution dockets, which are filed as a separate series with papers of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation from the 95th Congress, make up nearly half of this category. These survey resolution dockets are arranged by docket number. While some of the docket file envelopes are empty, most include the following documentation: the initial congressional correspondence requesting action; correspondence between the committee chair and the Corps of Engineers on possible surveys regarding navigation, beach erosion, or flood control; legislation introduced; and resolutions authorizing particular surveys. (See Chapter 25 for additional information.)

**17.70** As with petitions and memorials, a complete listing of executive communications can be found in committee calendars. The executive communications themselves are arranged in numerical order. A majority of executive communications came from the Secretary of the Army and concern matters relating to navigation, beach erosion or flood control. Others came from such persons as the Chairman of the National Park and Planning Commission, the Administrator of the General Services Administration, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President of the United States, who transmitted drafts of proposed legislation and annual reports, and supplied requested information.

**17.71** Although the committee papers for any given Congress often include a separate section for the committee's publications (most of which are transcripts of hearings), none of these collections contain all of the publications shown for the committee in the publications checklist within the legislative calendars. Other significant full committee papers include several inches of correspondence from the 80th Congress on two topics: water pollution and the Clark Hill electric power project on the Savannah River near the Georgia-South Carolina border (80A-F14.1).

**17.72** Included with the committee papers are 34 feet of subcommittee papers. Of this total, 25 feet were created by the **Special Subcommittee to Investigate Questionable Trade Practices** (80A-F14.6), which was originated by House Resolution 403 of the 80th

Congress, passed on December 15, 1947. The subcommittee's purpose was to investigate black and "gray" market practices, expose such practices to public view, and recommend measures for remedying the factors which created the "gray" markets. Special emphasis was placed in investigating practices in the steel industry. The subcommittee's papers consist primarily of correspondence and records of investigations, in addition to the transcripts of hearings mentioned in para. 17.64.

**17.73** The only other subcommittee with a significant quantity of papers (9 ft.)is the **Special Subcommittee on the Federal-Aid Highway Program**. Half of this total consists of vouchers from the 89th and 90th Congresses (1965-68); the other half is exhibits from the 90th Congress (1967-68). The exhibits include reports, affidavits. maps, drawings, booklets, and photographs for hearings on policies and practices in Florida, Massachusetts, New Mexico, West Virginia, Arizona, and Louisiana, as well as for hearings on toll facilities and safety.

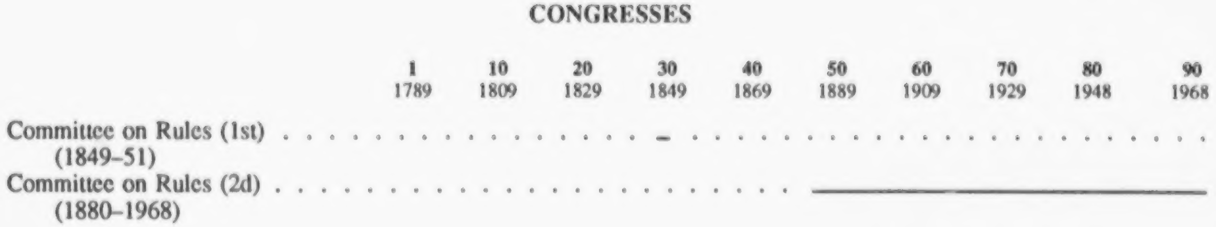
**17.74** Records of other Subcommittees of the Committee on Public Works consist primarily of minutes and transcripts for the following:

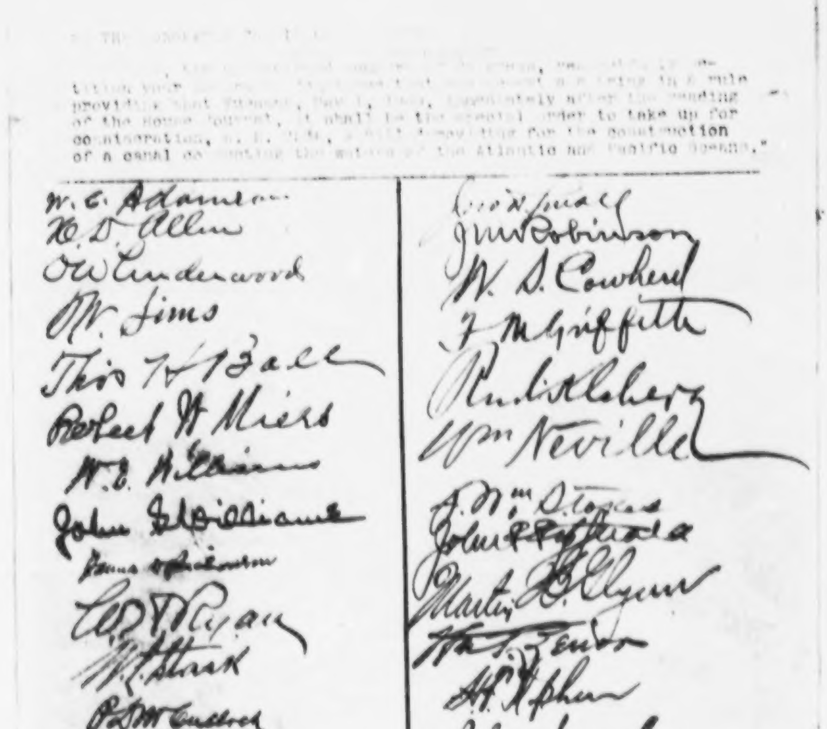
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Subcommittee on Flood Control | 80th, 82d-90th Congresses, 1947-48, 1951-68 | 4 in. |
| Subcommittee on Roads | 80th, 82d-90th Congresses, 1947-48, 1951-68 | 3 ft. |
| Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors | 80th, 82d-90th Congresses, 1947-48, 1951-68 | 10 in. |
| Subcommittee on Public Buildings and Grounds | 80th, 82d-90th Congresses, 1947-48, 1951-68 | 1 ft. |
| Subcommittee on Beach Erosion | 80th Congress, 1947-48 | 1 in. |
| Subcommittee on Watershed Development | 86th-90th Congresses, 1959-68 | 7 in. |
| Special Subcommittee to Investigate Questionable Trade Practices | 80th Congress, 1947-48 | 29 ft. |
| Special Subcommittee to Study Civil Works | 82d Congress, 1951-52 | 3 in. |
| Special Subcommittee on Federal-Aid Highway Program | 86th-90th Congresses, 1959-68 | 11 ft. |
| Special Subcommittee on Montana Flood Damage | 88th Congress, 1963-64 | 1 in. |
| Special Subcommittee on Economic Development Programs | 89th-90th Congresses, 1965-68 | 5 in. |
| Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Appalachian Regional Development | 88th-90th Congresses, 1963-68 | 10 in. |
| Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Alaska Exposition, 1967 | 89th-90th Congresses, 1965-68 | 1 in. |
| Subcommittees on Flood Control and Rivers and Harbors - Joint Meetings | 80th, 89th-90th Congresses, 1947-48, 1965-68 | 6 in. |
| Special Subcommittee on Federal-Aid Highway Program and Subcommittee on Roads - Joint Meetings on Roads | 89th Congress, 1965-66 | 9 in. |

**17.75** **Bill files** form the nucleus of the committee's records. For most Congresses the files are arranged by type of legislation — H.R., H.J. Res., H.Res., H. Con. Res., S., S.J. Res. — and thereunder numerically by docket number. For the 90th Congress (1967-68) the bill files are in straight docket order with the various categories of legislative measures intermixed. Within each bill file are copies of bills and appropriate support correspondence. Individual files may also contain copies of bills as printed with Union Calendar numbers, reports, and manuscript or printed copies of transcripts of hearings. For the 90th Congress the series identified as "Duplicate Bill Files" is in fact a companion to the main set of bill files containing additional background data for the measures in question. Bill files exist for such important public works legislation as the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956 (84A-D14); the Public Buildings Act of 1959; the 1959 bond financing amendments to the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (86A-D11); the River and Harbor Act of 1962 (87A-D12); the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965 and the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (89 PW.1)

# Chapter 18

# RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES





W. C. Adamson
O. W. Underwood
Thos H. Ball
W. E. Williams
John Sharp Williams
John A. Moon
W. L. Terry
Jos. E. Ransdell
Benj F. Caldwell
Edgar Wilson

J. M. Robinson
W. S. Cowherd
F. M. Griffith
Rudolph Kleberg
Wm Neville
John Lamb
J. H. Bankhead
E. R. Ridgely
S. W. Davenport
David E. Johnston
J. W. Atwater
J. F. Shafroth
Wm M. Howard

46

*This discharge petition was signed by 251 Members of the House of Representatives and sent to the Rules Committee asking that the committee provide a rule for consideration of H.R. 2538, a bill "Providing for the construction of a canal connecting the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans" through Nicaragua. (56A-H28.11)*

# CHAPTER 18

# RECORDS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

## Committee on Rules (1849-51, 1880-1968)

### *Jurisdiction and History*

**18.1** The Rules Committee is one of the oldest committees in the House. It was established as a select committee in 1789 and was reappointed as a select committee in nearly every Congress until 1880, when it was made a standing committee.

**18.2** The original jurisdiction of the committee was to establish and revise the rules of the House, an activity that required little attention after the first Congress because the rules of the previous Congress were usually adopted with few changes at the beginning of each new Congress. Because of its limited and little-used jurisdiction, the select committee had little influence during its first century, and its members complained that little attention was paid to its reports. In fact, so little attention was paid to the select committee that during several Congresses between 1817 and 1831 no members were appointed to it.

**18.3** Since those early days the committee has greatly increased its power, and in addition to the original jurisdiction over the House rules, it has acquired control over the order of business on the floor of the House through the issuance of special orders or rules.

**18.4** The ascent of the committee to a position of power and prestige began slowly but was a steady, cumulative process after the mid-19th century. In 1849, as a result of a difficult contest for the speakership, the Rules Committee was made a standing committee, but only retained that status until 1851 when it was reduced to the status of a select committee again. In 1858 the Speaker of the House (who had never been a member of any committee) was designated as a member of the committee and was the chairman of the committee from that time until 1910. In 1880 the select committee became a standing committee with jurisdiction over "all proposed action touching the rules and joint rules" and has been a standing committee since that time.

**18.5** In practice, the part of the jurisdiction affecting changes in the rules and joint rules of Congress is rarely used extensively. There are usually several very limited changes made in the rules during each Congress, but major revisions are infrequent. Also included in the original jurisdiction of the committee is responsibility for resolutions creating special committees and resolutions directing committees to conduct investigations.

**18.6** The committee is best known today for its jurisdiction over the order of business on the House floor, the activity that regularly influences the passage of legislation and consumes the majority of the committee's time. Beginning in 1886, the jurisdiction of the committee was expanded to allow it to fix the days for consideration of particular bills, and by 1887 the House rules provided that all special orders providing for consideration of a particular bill or class of bills must pass through the Rules Committee. By 1889 the House rules defined the jurisdiction of the committee to include "all proposed action touching the rules, joint rules, and order of business."

**18.7** Special orders, or rules, are needed because of the tremendous amount of legislation that is proposed by the 435 Representatives during each Congress—much more than could be processed without the aid of shortcuts and limitations on debate. Under the rules of the House, legislation reported out by committees is placed on the appropriate calendar of the House, where it is disposed of in the order in which it was placed on the calendar. However, increasing amounts of activity and large legislative workloads have required an adjustment to this procedure in order to consider important legislation. There has been a need to make special scheduling arrangements so that particular bills will get priority for consideration on the floor of the House. This is the role of the Rules Committee: legislative traffic cop. Most major bills pass through the Rules Committee on their way to the floor. The special orders, or rules, granted by the committee generally (1) set the amount of time for general debate, (2) make the legislation open to amendment or not, and (3) waive or do not waive points of order.

### *Records of the Committee on Rules, 31st Congress (1849-51) and 46th-79th Congresses (1880-1946)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 22 vols. | 1893-95, 1899-1929<br>1935-38 | 53d, 56th-70th<br>74th-75th |
| Docket Books | 19 vols. | 1883-87, 1889-91<br>1893-95, 1899-1919<br>1923-25, 1933-46 | 48th-49th, 51st<br>53d, 56th-65th<br>68th, 74th-79th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 in. | 1849-51, 1897-1903<br>1911-15 | 31st, 55th-57th,<br>62d-63d |
| Comm. Papers | 8 ft. | 1883-89, 1901-3<br>1909-11, 1931-46 | 48th-50th, 57th<br>61st, 72d-79th |
| Bill Files | 22 ft. | 1925-34 | 69th-73d |
| TOTAL: | 30 ft., 4 in. and 41 vols. (3 ft., 6 in.) | | |

**18.8** The records of the committee before 1947 are incomplete, but they documentation significant aspects of the committee's history. The **minute books** provide short accounts of the activity in committee meetings during that period, including the dates and attendance at full committee meetings, the appointment of subcommittees, the referral of bills and resolutions to subcommittees, consideration of legislation, the hearing of witnesses, and the preparation of reports. The docket books provide summaries of the legislation and documents referred to the committee. Each book generally includes a list of bills and resolutions referred to the committee, along with entries showing committee action, such as referral to subcommittees, hearings held, reports prepared, and references to full committee discussions. The **docket books** include much of the same material that is found in the modern committee calendars.

**18.9** Although **petitions and memorials** for most of the pre-1947 Congresses are missing, the few that have been preserved provide some insight into the types of documents that were generally referred to the committee. The records include petitions and memorials requesting that changes be made in certain House rules, suggesting the initiation of a variety of special investigations, and requesting that special orders, or rules, be granted to facilitate the consideration of particular legislation on the House floor.

**18.10** Two petitions that were referred to the first standing Committee on Rules (1849-51) have been preserved. Benjamin B. French, after 15 years of employment in the House of Representatives, recognized the need for a parliamentary manual and, during his retirement, submitted a petition asking to be commissioned to write such a manual for the use of Congress. The file on his petition (31A-G22.1) includes several letters from French to David Kauffman, Chairman of the Rules Committee, and two resolutions drafted by French at the chairman's request. The second petition was from James W. Stone and 2,226 others from Massachusetts asking Congress to pass a law requiring that the speeches and reports of both Houses be printed in phonotype, a system of printing by sound (31A-G22.1). The document, a small roll petition, contains the signatures of the petitioners but does not explain the nature of the phonotype process.

**18.11** The petitions from the 55th through the 57th Congresses (1897-1903) provide a sample of the types of subjects referred to the Rules Committee around the turn of the century. The records of each of the three Congresses contain petitions from numerous posts of the Grand Army of the Republic demanding that Congress authorize an investigation of the Pension Office (55A-H32.1, 56A-H28.1, 57A-H25.1). Other records include a petition from the Colored Republican Club of Chicago and a petition from citizens of Boston, both asking for better enforcement of the 14th Amendment (57A-H25.1), and a petition from citizens of Ottumwa, IA, supporting the appointment of a commission to investigate compliance with the equal suffrage law (57A-H25.1).

**18.12** The records include several petitions requesting favorable rules for the consideration of particular legislation. Examples are the petitions from the R.B. Hawkins Division of the Order of Railway Conductors from Pittsburgh and the Bradford Lodge of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen from McKean County, PA, both of which passed resolutions favoring passage of H.R. 11060, a bill to define the meaning of the word "conspiracy" and regulate the use of restraining orders and injunctions in certain cases. These two petitions were referred to the Rules Committee because they were written after the bill had been reported out of the Judiciary Committee, and the authors note that their union members were aware that the only thing that could stop passage of the bill was the Rules Committee itself. Similar petitions favoring H.R. 11060, but submitted earlier in the legislative process, may be found in the petition and memorial files (57A-H19.1) and committee papers (57A-F19.1, 1 in.) of the Judiciary Committee.

**18.13** Some of the petitions referred to the committee originated within the Congress and demonstrate the power of the committee. Among the records are a 1900 petition signed by 251 Members of the House requesting a favorable rule for the consideration of H.R. 2538, a bill to provide for the construction of a canal connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans at Nicaragua (56A-H28.1), and an undated petition from Members of the House who "respectfully ask that time and an opportunity be given for the consideration of the bill favorably reported by the committee on Agriculture for the establishment of the National Appalachian Forest Reserve in the Southern Appalachian Mountains" (57A-H25.1). A petition from the U.S. Senate dated March 2, 1900, and signed by the President pro tempore and the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican caucuses of the Senate, requests that the Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the Senate be granted privilege to go on the floor of the House of Representatives, a privilege that the Senate had already granted to the Deputy Sergeant at Arms of the House (56A-H28.1).

**18.14** The records from the 62d Congress (1911-13) contain dozens of petitions from citizens and resolutions from organizations demanding that Congress initiate investigations of various social problems. The largest number of documents demand an investigation of a strike at the textile mills at Lawrence, KS. The records include petitions and resolutions from the council of the city of Cincinnati, the Order of Railroad Telegraphers, the B&O Railroad System Division 33, Trenton Lodge #398 of the International Association of Machinists, and the San Francisco Labor Council. There is also a typewritten report from a committee of Lawrence citizens named to investigate the strike (62A-H29.4).

**18.15** During the same Congress there are over a dozen petitions protesting the indictment of, and demanding an investigation of the charges against, the editor of *The Appeal to Reason* for sending a publication through the mails that exposed the "obscene" conditions at the prison at Leavenworth. Among the petitioners on this subject are 300 voters from Monet, MO; the citizens of Whittemore, MI; the local lodge of the Socialist Party of Ouray, CO; and the taxpayers and voters of El Paso, TX (62A-H29.2).

**18.16** Also during the 62d Congress, the Barre, VT, branch of the Granite Cutter's International Association, the city council of Boston, and W. R. Benton and 11 other persons from Martin County, MN, demanded an investigation of the "production, transportation, and sale of coal"; they believed that the laboring man had been forced to spend an inordinately large portion of his wages on fuel because of illegal combinations in the coal industry that had kept the prices unnaturally high (62A-H29.3).

**18.17** The records from 1911-13 also contain petitions favoring passage of S. 5546 or H.R. 21094, the Hughes-Borah bills, to create an industrial commission to study industrial problems and provide Congress with the knowledge necessary to write needed industrial legislation, and H. Res. 396, a bill to provide for the investigation of the working conditions in the industrial states of the Midwest. In addition to the demands for investigations, mainly of labor conditions, the records include suggestions for the establishment of a standing committee on public health in the House (there was already a standing committee on public health in the Senate), and a standing committee on peace (62A-H29.1).

**18.18** The petitions and memorials from the 63d Congress (1913-15) contain documents on one subject only—prohibition. There are petitions supporting the adoption of a constitutional amendment to prohibit the manufacture, transportation, and sale of beverage alcohol, as well as petitions defending the right of citizens to exercise personal choice on the question of drinking.

**18.19** The **bill files** and **committee papers** before 1947 include unpublished hearing transcripts from several Congresses, but very little correspondence or other unpublished material has been preserved in the records. The committee papers consist almost entirely of copies of bills and resolutions referred to the committee and copies of the committee reports before 1931 and transcripts of hearings after that date. Although the printed materials are not unique record copies of documents, they constitute a valuable research collection of documents that are not available in this accessible form anywhere else.

**18.20** During most of its history, the Rules Committee did not publish a committee calendar, and the collections of printed documents provide an overview of legislation that passed through the committee. Printed documents are arranged in two collections. One collection includes copies of each kind of legislation arranged in numerical order: The simple House resolutions that are used to provide the scheduling rules; the House joint resolutions that are used to create special commissions or authorize special investigations; and the House concurrent resolutions that are used to create joint committees of Congress and to create certain types of commissions. The second collection brings together all the printed records relating to each particular piece of legislation that passed through the committee. The records of the scheduling resolutions consist of a copy of the bill or resolution that is to be scheduled, a copy of the House and Senate committee reports on the legislation, a copy of the scheduling resolution (the special order) that was referred to the Rules Committee, and a copy of the Rules Committee report on the scheduling resolution. The documents for most of the period between the 61st and 83d Congresses (1909-54) are bound into volumes for permanent retention and easy reference.

**18.21** There are transcripts of unpublished hearings for the 68th through 73d (1923-34) and 76th-78th Congresses (1939-46)—a total of over 300 transcripts. Most of the transcripts are of short hearings on requests for rules for the consideration of legislation. The transcripts generally include brief summaries of the legislation given by a member of the committee that reported it, questions from the members of the Rules Committee regarding the unanimity of the reporting committee on the passage of the legislation, and, occasionally, questions concerning why the passage of the legislation is important or urgent. A few transcripts include prepared statements from the reporting committee and letters or statements from representatives of interested lobby groups.

*Records of the Committee on Rules, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | 2 ft. | 1957-68 | 85th-90th |
| Dockets | 3 in. | 1947-52 | 80th-82d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 1 ft. | 1953-68 | 83d-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 11 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 5 ft. | 1947-48, 1953-58 | 80th, 83d-85th |
| TOTAL: 19 ft., 3 in. | | | |

**18.22** After the passage of the 1946 Legislative Reorganization Act, the records of the committee are thin and irregular. Minutes of committee meetings, unpublished hearing transcripts, and original petitions, memorials, and resolutions constitute the unpublished resources.

**18.23** The **minutes** of meetings from 1957 through 1968 are unbound and filed in folders in the committee papers collections for the 85th through 90th Congresses. The minutes are extensive and provide a record of activity at every meeting of the committee. Some of the minutes, such as those for organizational meetings at the beginning of a Congress, are so detailed that they read more like transcripts than minutes. They include drafts of resolutions and drafts of committee rules, written statements and summaries of oral statements of members supporting or opposing legislation, copies of bills and resolutions, and copies of printed hearings. The minutes are indexed for each session.

**18.24** The **docket books** from the 80th-82d Congresses contain lists of bills, resolutions, and petitions referred to the committee as well as other statistical and administrative recordkeeping aids. After the 82d Congress (1951-52), the records contain a variety of typed, looseleaf lists, index card files, jurisdictional breakdowns, membership lists, and statistical and other types of analyses of the work done by the committee. These serve the function of dockets from earlier periods as well as some of the functions of committee calendars, which were not published by the committee during this period.

**18.25** The most frequent subject of **petitions and memorials** referred to the Rules Committee during the 1950's and 1960's was congressional investigations and investigating committees. The records from the 1950's

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contain petitions and memorials suggesting more formal delineation of rules and procedure for investigating committees (83A-H11.1). Toward the end of the decade (1957-58), the petitions and memorials are more pointedly concerned with the investigations of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), particularly the HUAC investigations of civil rights movements (90A-H16), and with efforts from various groups to eliminate the committee (85A-H13.1, 88A-H13.1, 89A-H16).

**18.26** Other petitions asked Congress to authorize Federal investigations to study the high retail prices of coffee (83A-H11), to study and recommend ways to revive the gold mining industry in Montana (83A-H11), and to study federal taxation policy and call a constitutional convention to reform it (84A-H12). A 1965 petition from the Federation of Homemakers, a nationwide group of public-spirited housewives, requested the creation of a standing committee in the House on health and safety (89A-H16).

**18.27** After 1946 the **committee papers** for each Congress include a complete set of bills, resolutions, and other documents referred to the committee and reports and resolutions produced by the committee. Committee papers for most of this period include index cards on all measures referred to the committee and typewritten lists of bills, resolutions, and other documents referred as well as the committee action and floor response to each item. These documents provide an overview of the work of the committee during the period before the Rules Committee published a committee calendar.

**18.28** During the latter half of the 1950's, the committee papers contain unpublished hearing transcripts on such subjects as H. Res. 85, 85th Cong., a resolution authorizing the Committee on Banking and Currency to investigate the operation of the monetary and credit structure of the United States (85A-F15); H.R. 12068, a bill to provide for a temporary emergency extension of unemployment insurance (85A-F15); H.R. 10765, amendments to the Longshoreman's and Harbor Worker's Compensation Act (84A-F15); H.R. 7535, which became the School Construction Assistance Act of 1955 (84A-F15); legislation to create the St. Lawrence Seaway (85A-F15) and to increase the public debt limit (83A-F15); and two bills on the subject of statehood for Hawaii and Alaska, H.R. 2535, 84th Cong., and H.R. 7999, 85th Cong. The subjects of unprinted hearings during the middle 1960's include H.R. 6400, 89th Cong., a bill to enforce the 15th Amendment to the Constitution; H. Con. Res. 4, 89th Congress, a resolution to establish a committee on the organization of Congress; and S. 355, 90th Cong., a bill to reorganize the legislative branch in 1967.

**18.29** The **bill files** from the 80th Congress (1947-48) provide what is probably the fullest documentation of the activity of the Rules Committee for any period in its history. Three feet of bill files, arranged by bill or resolution number, contain transcripts of hearings held on most pieces of legislation that were referred to the committee.

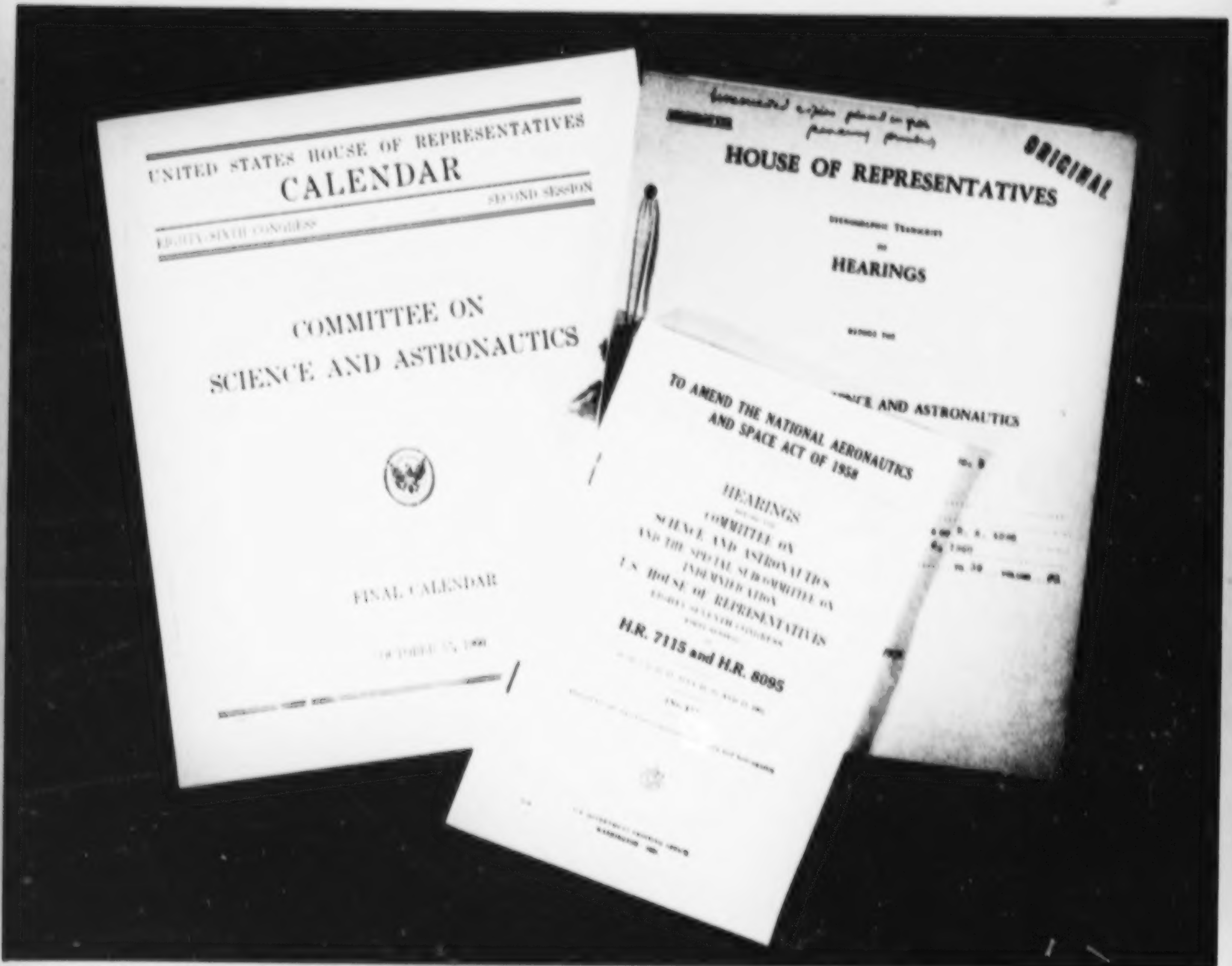
**18.30** The bill files before 1958, except for those from 1947-48, consist only of copies of printed bills and resolutions along with copies of associated documents. After the 85th Congress bill files are not filed separately, but are included in the records filed under committee papers.

# Chapter 19

# RECORDS OF THE SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS COMMITTEE

**CONGRESSES**

| | 1<br>1789 | 10<br>1809 | 20<br>1829 | 30<br>1849 | 40<br>1869 | 50<br>1889 | 60<br>1909 | 70<br>1929 | 80<br>1948 | 90<br>1968 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Science and Astronautics (1958–1968) | . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . | . . . | ——— |



UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CALENDAR
EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS
SECOND SESSION

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

FINAL CALENDAR

ORIGINAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HEARINGS

...NCE AND ASTRONAUTICS

TO AMEND THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS
AND SPACE ACT OF 1958

HEARINGS
COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS
AND THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INDEMNIFICATION
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
EIGHTY-SEVENTH CONGRESS

H.R. 7115 and H.R. 8095

*Committee hearings provide a record of the information and opinion gathered in the preparation of legislation. Most of the modern committee calendars record the dates and subjects of all the hearings held by the full committee and its subcommittees, and indicate if the hearing was printed.*

# CHAPTER 19

## RECORDS OF THE SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS COMMITTEE

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**19.1** Concern over the Soviet Union's launching of the Sputnik space satellite in October 1957 led the House of Representatives to establish the House Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration, the predecessor of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. This select committee was established on March 5, 1958, to study and investigate "all aspects and problems relating to the exploration of outer space and the control, development, and use of astronautical resources, personnel, equipment, and facilities."[1] During its brief existence it accomplished two objectives: it wrote the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 which established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and it paved the way for the creation of the Committee on Science and Astronautics.

**19.2** The Committee on Science and Astronautics, authorized by H.Res. 580 on July 21, 1958, became the first standing committee created by the House after passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. In January 1959 the committee began operations. During the first decade its jurisdiction covered:

> (a) Astronautical research and development, including resources, personnel, equipment and facilities. (b) Bureau of Standards, standardization of weights and measures and the metric system. (c) National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA]. (d) National Aeronautics and Space Council. (e) National Science Foundation [NSF]. (f) Outer space, including exploration and control thereof. (g) Science scholarships. (h) Scientific research and development.[2]

Its primary initial mission was oversight of NASA and the non-military space program. Over the years shifts in focus resulted in the committee changing its name from the Committee on Science and Astronautics to the Committee on Science and Technology (94th Congress) to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology (99th Congress).

**19.3** For further information on the history and operation of the committee see *Toward the Endless Frontier: History of the Committee on Science and Technology, 1959-79* by former committee member Ken Hechler.[3]

***Records of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, 86th-90th Congresses (1959-68)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 4 in. | 1959-68 | 86th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 5 ft. | 1959-68 | 86th-90th |
| Bill Files | 7 ft. | 1959-68 | 86th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 12 ft., 4 in | | |

**19.4** A few **petitions and memorials** exist for each Congress for the years in question but they are not a significant part of the committee's records. All documents in this category were addressed to the Speaker of the House and subsequently referred to the committee. Fewer than a dozen memorials from state legislatures are present in the collection. These came from Hawaii (location of a satellite launch facility, 86A-H12.1 and 87A-H11.1); Arizona and New York (congratulations to astronaut John Glenn, 87A-H11.1); New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Massachusetts (location of a proposed Electronics Research Center, 88 SA.3); and Florida (continuation of the status quo vis-a-vis private support services, 89 SA.3).

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[1] *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States*, 85th Cong., 2d sess., March 5, 1958, p. 167.

[2] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 352.

[3] U.S. Congress, House, Committee on Science and Technology, *Toward the Endless Frontier: History of the Committee on Science and Techology, 1959-79*, by Ken Hechler, Committee Print, 96th Cong., 2d sess., 1980. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1980 (Y1.2: F92/959-79).

Petitions came from the New England Association of Fire Chiefs endorsing the creation of a National Advisory Commission on Fire Prevention and Control (90 S&A.4), the Nebraska Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars expressing support for NASA and the Mercury space program (87A-H11.1), and the Board of Selectmen of a Massachusetts town urging the selection of the Central Merrimack Valley as the location of a NASA space research laboratory (88 SA.3), as well as from two individuals on various personal concerns (86A-H12.1, 88 SA.3, 90 S&A.4).

**19.5** **Committee papers** consist of executive communications, published committee and subcommittee hearings, published House documents and agency reports, and final published editions of committee calendars. Executive communications generally were addressed to the Speaker of the House and then referred to the committee. These communications consist of transmittal letters and enclosures such as lists of grants from the Agriculture Department, lists of contracts negotiated by NASA, and suggestions for proposed bills from cabinet departments. Of particular note among the executive communications are NASA volumes relating to a proposed Electronics Research Center (88 SA 2).

**19.6** Among printed hearings found in the committee papers are those for the 1962 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 3238 and H.R. 6029, superseded by H.R. 6874, 87th Cong., 87A.F14.2); the 1963 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 10100, superseded by H.R. 11737, 87th Cong., 87A-F14.2); the 1964 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 5466, superseded by H.R. 7500, 88th Cong., 88 SA 4); the 1965 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 9641, superseded by H.R. 10456, 88th Cong., 88 SA 4); the Fire Research and Safety Act of 1967 (H.R. 6637, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2); the international biological program (H. Con. Res. 273, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2); the 1968 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 4450 and H.R. 6470, superseded by H.R. 10340, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2); and the 1969 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 15086, superseded by H.R. 15856, 90th Cong., 90 S&A.2).-Printed House documents generally consist of presidential messages transmitting annual reports or recommending amendments to existing legislation. Other printed materials include NASA's semi-annual reports and a Senate document from the Bureau of the Budget on government contracting for research and development (87A-F14.4).

**19.7** Committee calendars are present for the 86th, 87th, and 88th Congresses (86A-F15.3, 87A-F14.3, and 88 SA.5). They serve as a modern-day substitute for docket books.

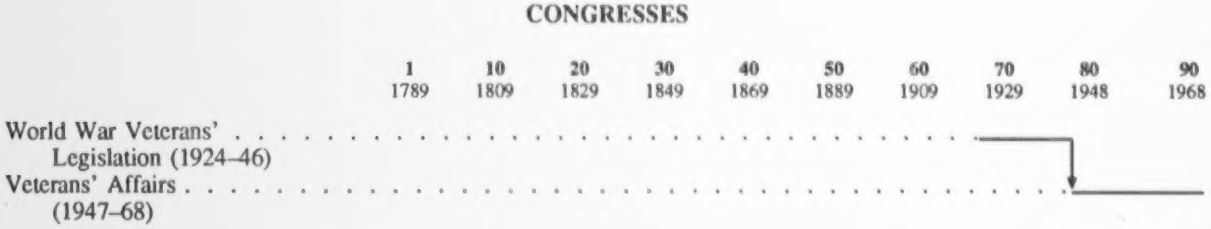
**19.8** **Bill files** make up the core of the committee holdings. The format of bill files varies from committee to committee; indeed, the contents of bill files for a given committee will vary from Congress to Congress. The bill files for the Science and Astronautics committee are as complete and informative as a researcher could expect to find in a series of this nature.

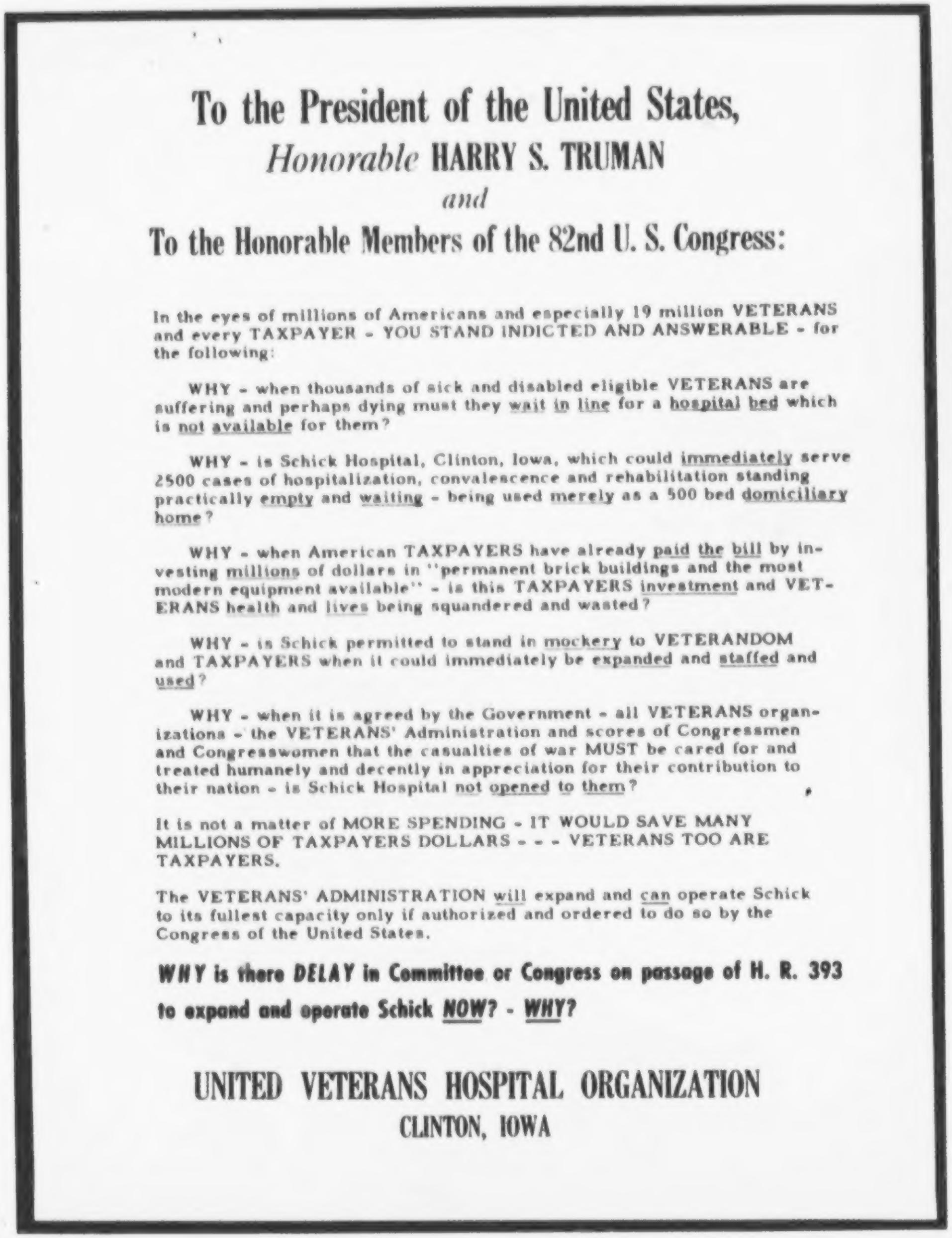
**19.9** Bill files are arranged as follows: House of Representatives bills (H.R.), House joint resolutions (H.J. Res.), House concurrent resolutions (H. Con. Res.), House resolutions (H.Res.), and Senate bills (S.). On the front of most file folders is pasted a printed endorsement identifying the Congress and session, bill number, purpose of the bill, name of the member who introduced it, and date of referral to the committee. Inside the folder, usually in reverse chronological order, may be found the printed bill, correspondence with departments and agencies seeking opinions and recommendations, correspondence with committee witnesses, letters and telegrams from the general public, magazines, newspaper clippings and other enclosures sent from the public to the committee, copies of the Congressional Record concerning Senate action on a given subject, printed House and Senate reports, sheets showing differences between House and Senate versions of corresponding bills, and printed copies of public laws. On occasion one also finds text of suggested floor statements or amendments for a bill, copies of the House resolution requesting a rule from the Rules Committee, and appropriate inter-committee correspondence. Both full committee and subcommittee printed hearings are a part of this series, including: Establishment of a National Order of Science (H.R. 6288, 86th Cong.); the 1960 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 6512, 86th Cong.); property rights in inventions made under federal space research contracts (H.R. 9484, 86th Cong.); amendments to the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (H.R. 9675, 86th Cong.); the authorization of appropriations for NASA (S. 1096, 86th Cong.); establishment of a National Science Academy (H.R. 1, 87th Cong.); the 1966 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 3730, 89th Cong.); the metric system (H.R. 2626, 89th Cong.); the 1967 NASA authorization bill (H.R. 12718, 89th Cong.); erection of a memorial statue to Dr. Robert H. Goddard (H.J. Res.

597, 89th Cong.); and institutional grants (H.R. 875, 89th Cong.). Very infrequently one also finds original mimeographed transcripts of subcommittee hearings such as those on H.R. 4986 (86th Cong.) concerning the establishment of a National Science Academy.

# Chapter 20

# RECORDS OF THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEES





## To the President of the United States,
*Honorable* HARRY S. TRUMAN
*and*
## To the Honorable Members of the 82nd U. S. Congress:

In the eyes of millions of Americans and especially 19 million VETERANS and every TAXPAYER - YOU STAND INDICTED AND ANSWERABLE - for the following:

WHY - when thousands of sick and disabled eligible VETERANS are suffering and perhaps dying must they wait in line for a hospital bed which is not available for them?

WHY - is Schick Hospital, Clinton, Iowa, which could immediately serve 2500 cases of hospitalization, convalescence and rehabilitation standing practically empty and waiting - being used merely as a 500 bed domiciliary home?

WHY - when American TAXPAYERS have already paid the bill by investing millions of dollars in "permanent brick buildings and the most modern equipment available" - is this TAXPAYERS investment and VETERANS health and lives being squandered and wasted?

WHY - is Schick permitted to stand in mockery to VETERANDOM and TAXPAYERS when it could immediately be expanded and staffed and used?

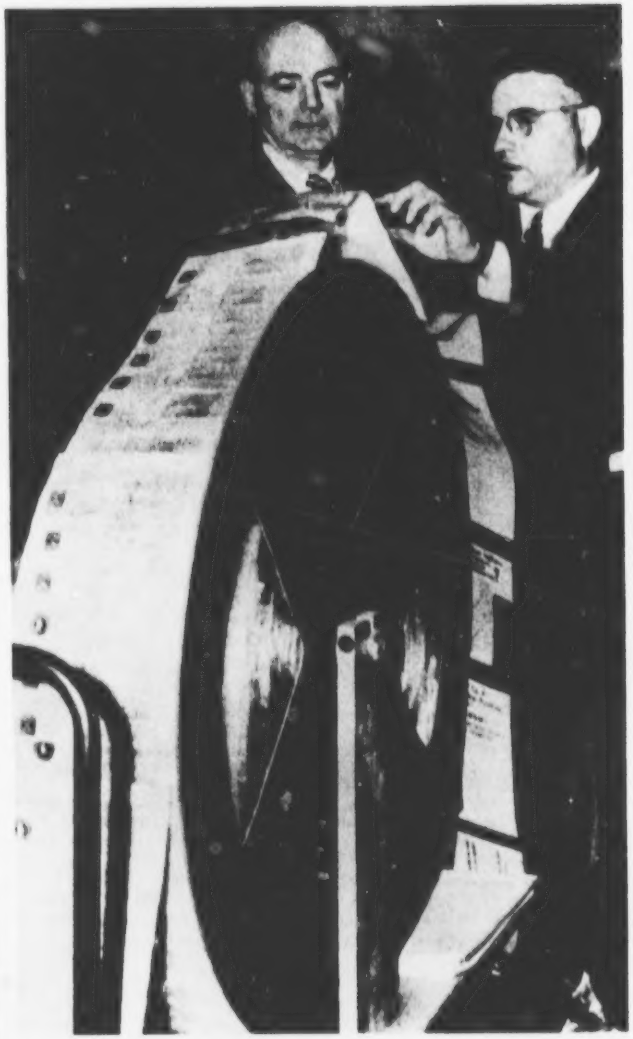
WHY - when it is agreed by the Government - all VETERANS organizations - the VETERANS' Administration and scores of Congressmen and Congresswomen that the casualties of war MUST be cared for and treated humanely and decently in appreciation for their contribution to their nation - is Schick Hospital not opened to them?

It is not a matter of MORE SPENDING - IT WOULD SAVE MANY MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS DOLLARS - - - VETERANS TOO ARE TAXPAYERS.

The VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION will expand and can operate Schick to its fullest capacity only if authorized and ordered to do so by the Congress of the United States.

***WHY* is there *DELAY* in Committee or Congress on passage of H. R. 393 to expand and operate Schick *NOW*? - *WHY*?**

**UNITED VETERANS HOSPITAL ORGANIZATION**
**CLINTON, IOWA**



*After the Shick General Hospital in Clinton, IA was opened as a limited domiciliary home in 1948 it became the subject of numerous petition campaigns demanding its fu11 utilization. The 5 foot high roll petition bearing 160,000 signatures from midwestern veterans was presented to Bernard Kearney, chairman of the Hospital subcommittee on April 23, 1947 by John M. Banker, president of the United Veterans Hospital Organization. The petition to the 82d Congress (left) outlines petitioners demands in 1951. (82A-H13)*

# CHAPTER 20

## RECORDS OF THE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEES

*Introduction*

**20.1.** This chapter describes the records of the Veterans' Affairs Committee and the Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation which preceded it. The Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, established in 1924, was the first committee devoted entirely to writing legislation to provide for the needs of veterans of foreign wars.

**20.2** Before 1924, the Committees on Pensions and on Invalid Pensions had dealt with the pension problems of individual veterans, and the Ways and Means Committee had been responsible for writing the majority of the legislation relating to veterans. All three of the committees continued to exist after the World War Veterans' Legislation Committee was created. In 1947 the World War Veterans Legislation Committee was renamed Veterans' Affairs, and its jurisdiction expanded to include the subjects that had been referred to the committees on Pensions and Invalid Pensions which were abolished under the reorganization of that year. The records of the Committee on Invalid Pensions and the Committee on Pensions are described in Chapter 6 and those of the Ways and Means Committee in Chapter 21.

### Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, 1924-46

*History and Jurisdiction*

**20.3** This committee was established on January 18, 1924, with jurisdiction over matters relating to the following subjects:

> war-risk insurance of soldiers, sailors, and marines, and other persons in the military and naval service of the United States during or growing out of the World War, the United States Veterans' Bureau, the compensations and allowances of such persons and their beneficiaries, and all legislation affecting them other than civil service, public lands, adjusted compensations, pensions, and private claims.[1]

**20.4** On January 24, 1944, the jurisdiction of the committee was enlarged so as to include the veterans of World War II. Two years later the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 abolished the committee and incorporated its jurisdiction into that of the new Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

***Records of the Committee on World War Veterans' Legislation, 68th-79th Congresses (1924-1946)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minutes | <1 in. | 1944 | 78th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 44 ft. | 1923-27, 1929-46 | 68th-69th, 71st-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 17 ft. | 1923-27, 1933-46 | 68th-69th, 73d-79th |
| Bill Files | 4 ft. | 1903-9, 1911-27 | 68th-72d, 77th-79th |
| TOTAL: | 65 ft. | | |

**20.5** The **minutes** document only the executive session meetings in April and May of 1944 on S. 1767, the veterans "GI Bill of Rights." There are no minute or docket books that document the activities of the full committee.

**20.6** For most congresses few **petitions and memorials** were referred to the committee. One petition drive accounts for over 95 percent of the petitions received by the committee during its 22-year history. During the 78th Congress (1943-44) a massive petition drive urged Congress to pass H.R. 3917, a bill to establish a GI bill of rights to provide Federal aid for the readjustment of World War II veterans to civilian life and S. 1617, its Senate counterpart (78A-H21.5, 42 ft.). Demands for amendments to the resulting legislation account for a far less voluminous but still substantial number of petitions among the records of the 79th Congress (79A-H22.2, 4 in.).

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[1] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Seventy-Eighth Congress*, H. Doc. 812, 77th Cong., 2d sess., 1943, p. 325.

**20.7** Petitions for the construction of hospitals and domiciliary facilities for veterans appear in the records of every Congress. The citizens and legislatures of various States appealed to Congress to build these institutions in their States. Typical of these petitions are a concurrent resolution from the State legislature of Indiana requesting appropriations for a hospital in that State (69A-H19.1) and a resolution passed by the State Senate of Michigan asking that a hospital be constructed in Wayne County (68A-H22.1). Some 10 years later, organizations in Michigan were still petitioning for a hospital to be built near Detroit, in Wayne County, to enable Michigan veterans to be hospitalized in their home State (74A-H21.1).

**20.8** Depression era legislation intended to balance the budget through various economies including reductions in the pensions and other benefits due veterans, was the concern of numerous petitioners. During the 72d Congress (1931-33) the committee files contain petitions begging that veterans' benefits not be reduced and that legislation pertaining to veterans of the Spanish American War not be repealed, and others protesting the National Economy League's proposals to reduce veterans' hospitalization and other benefits (72A-H17.1). After passage of the Economy Act of March 20, 1933, the files of the 73d Congress (1933-34) contain petitions demanding restoration of the veterans' benefits that had been reduced under the legislation (73A-H22.3, 73A-H22.4).

**20.9** Other subjects of petitions and memorials included passage of a bill to provide for the retirement of disabled emergency officers in the Army during World War I (68A-H22.1), amendments to the war risk insurance legislation (71A-H19.1, 74A-H21.3), payment of adjusted compensation (73A-H22.2), Federal provision of artificial limbs to veterans (75A-H20.3), Government protection and compensation for the widows and children of deceased veterans (76A-H27.3), rehabilitation of veterans (78A-21.4), automobiles for amputees (79A-H22.1), and criticism of the operation of the Veterans Administration (79A-H22.5).

**20.10** **Committee papers** between 1924 and 1941 comprise less than 1 foot of printed copies of bills, resolutions, hearings, and committee prints. Beginning with the 77th Congress, however, the activities of the committee are documented much more completely. In addition to the types of printed documents listed above, the committee papers files include the correspondence of the committee.

**20.11** There are two correspondence files for each Congress between the 77th and the 79th: a general correspondence file that is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent, and a subject correspondence file that is arranged alphabetically by topic. The general correspondence files for the three Congresses total 9 linear feet and the three subject files total less than 5 feet.

**20.12** The committee papers for the 77th and 78th Congresses contain special correspondence files for the Veterans Administration (VA) which include drafts of proposed legislation. Much of the correspondence between the committee and the VA is documented in committee prints which the committee issued in large numbers during each Congress. The records of this committee contain as many as 400 committee prints from each Congress, most of which are copies of correspondence between the committee and the Veterans Administration or the large veterans organizations.

**20.13** Among the 77th and 78th Congress records are also documents from the American Legion including its annual reports and financial statements, and from the American Veterans' Association (77A-F39.1, 77A-F39.2, 78A-F39.3).

**20.14** The records that are filed under the heading "bill files" consist primarily of copies of printed bills or resolutions and the related reports and hearings.

## Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 1947-68

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**20.15** This committee was established under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946; its jurisdiction included the subjects that had been referred to the committees on World War Veterans' Legislation, Pensions, and Invalid Pensions before they were abolished by the Act (see Chapter 6 for descriptions of the later two committees).

**20.16** The creation of the Veterans' Affairs Committee brought all veterans' legislation into the consideration of one committee. Prior to the consolidation of committees under the 1946 reorganization the dispersal of responsibility for veterans' affairs among the several committees caused concern as to the fairness and equality of treatment. George Huddleston described the problem as it appeared in 1924 although the solution was not achieved for another 22 years:

> I believe that everybody will agree that the soldiers of all wars ought to be treated with a certain amount of equality. As the situation stands at present, we have three separate committees which deal with Civil War soldiers, Spanish War soldiers, and World War soldiers. . . . In the past it has worked out that the soldiers of the Civil War receive one kind of treatment, the Spanish-American War soldiers an entirely different treatment, and the World War soldiers still a third type of treatment, and their widows and dependents are discriminated against in the same way. Does not the gentleman feel that it would be a step of real relief if we could consolidate this soldier-relief work and give one committee jurisdiction of the whole matter . . ?[2]

**20.17** The formal jurisdiction of the Veterans' Affairs Committee includes matters relating to:

> (a) Veterans' measures generally. (b) Compensation, vocational rehabilitation, and education of veterans. (c) Life insurance issued by the Government on account of service in the armed forces. (d) Pensions of all the wars of the United States, general and special. (e) Readjustment of servicemen to civil life. (f) Soldiers' and sailors' civil relief. (g) Veterans' hospitals, medical care, and treatment of veterans.[3]

### *Records of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Petitions & Mem. | 3 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Comm. Papers | 291 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| TOTAL: | 294 ft. | | |

**20.18** No **minute books, docket books,** or **bill files** from this committee are currently held by the National Archives. The activities of the committee and its relationships with constituents, interest groups, and the agencies in its jurisdiction are documented, however, in the petitions and memorials received by the committee and in large correspondence files that have been preserved.

**20.19** The **petitions and memorials** document the concerns of veterans on a variety of subjects which included: pensions for veterans of both World Wars and the Spanish American War (81A-H12.1, 86A-H13.1); the Servicemen's Readjustment Act (81A-H12.2); a peacetime GI bill (86A-H13.1); an increase in the veterans' education allowance (86A-H13.1); the opening of numerous veterans' homes (86A-H13.1); and appropriations for VA hospital, domiciliary, and medical programs (81A-H12.3, 83A-H12.1). By far the largest number of petitions and memorials received pertained to various veterans' hospitals. Large numbers of petitions express the interest of veterans throughout the country in the construction and administration of specific veterans' hospitals such as the Schick Hospital in Clinton, IA (80A-H12.1, 82A-H13.1), the Barnes' Veterans' Hospital in Vancouver, WA (83A-H12.2), and a new VA hospital in South Texas (85A-H14.1). During the 89th Congress (1965-66) the committee received a large number of petitions and memorials protesting the closing of VA hospitals in Lincoln, NE; Miles City, MT; Rutland Heights, MA; and McKinney, TX; a domiciliary in Clinton, IA; regional offices in Juneau, AK; Sioux Falls, SD; Cheyenne, WY; and various other VA facilities (89-VA-5).

**20.20** Interest in the construction and utilization of VA hospitals motivated several intense and well organized petition drives. A huge roll petition containing over 160,000 signatures was presented to the committee by the United Veterans Organization of Clinton, IA, on April 23, 1947. The mile-and-a-half long document claimed to be, "a petition coming from every city, town, village, and hamlet of Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and part of Missouri, Indiana, and Ohio," and urged that the Schick Hospital be reopened (80A-H12.1).

**20.21** The activities of the committee are well documented by the **committee papers** files. Several types of files appear regularly. For each Congress there is a full committee reading file, consisting of pink carbons of outgoing communications arranged alphabetically by the name of the correspondent (total 48 ft.). For each Congress there is a subject correspondence file which consists of the letters received and copies of the committee's responses arranged alphabetically by subject (145 ft.). The committee papers from 1947 through 1960 also contain correspondence files of Edith N. Rogers (10 ft.), who was

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*Congressional Record*, 68th Cong., 1st sess., Jan. 14, 1924, p. 946.

[1] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 355.

committee chairman during the 80th and 83d Congress and ranking minority member until the 86th Congress.

**20.22** The records of this committee contain a substantial collection of correspondence (24 ft.) regarding individual case files of veterans. In most instances, this correspondence is segregated, but additional case file correspondence may also be found in the general subject files or reading files of the committee. Other individual case files may be among the records of the various investigations conducted by the staff of the committee (see para. 20.25).

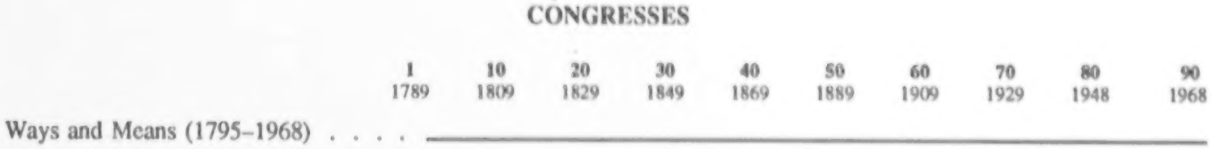
**20.23** The committee papers files include collections (varying in degree of completeness) of the printed bills and resolutions referred to the committee and the printed reports, hearings, and committee prints produced by the committee. The committee produced an unusually large number of committee prints during each Congress, averaging almost 400 per Congress during the period under consideration. These prints provide access to a wide range of information regarding the work of the committee and other veterans organizations. The committee regularly printed the correspondence containing the comments of the Veterans Administration on proposed legislation; a chart of the resolutions adopted by the national conventions of the American Legion, American Veterans of World War II, Disabled American Veterans, Regular Veterans Association, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; compilations of laws relating to veterans and their families; an index to all hearings held by the committee during each Congress; summaries of recent veterans legislation before Congress and recent changes in the laws affecting veterans; the findings of studies done by the committee staff or other government agencies; and correspondence received from the major veterans organizations. The committee also printed an index to its committee prints for each Congress that is usually included among its printed material collection.

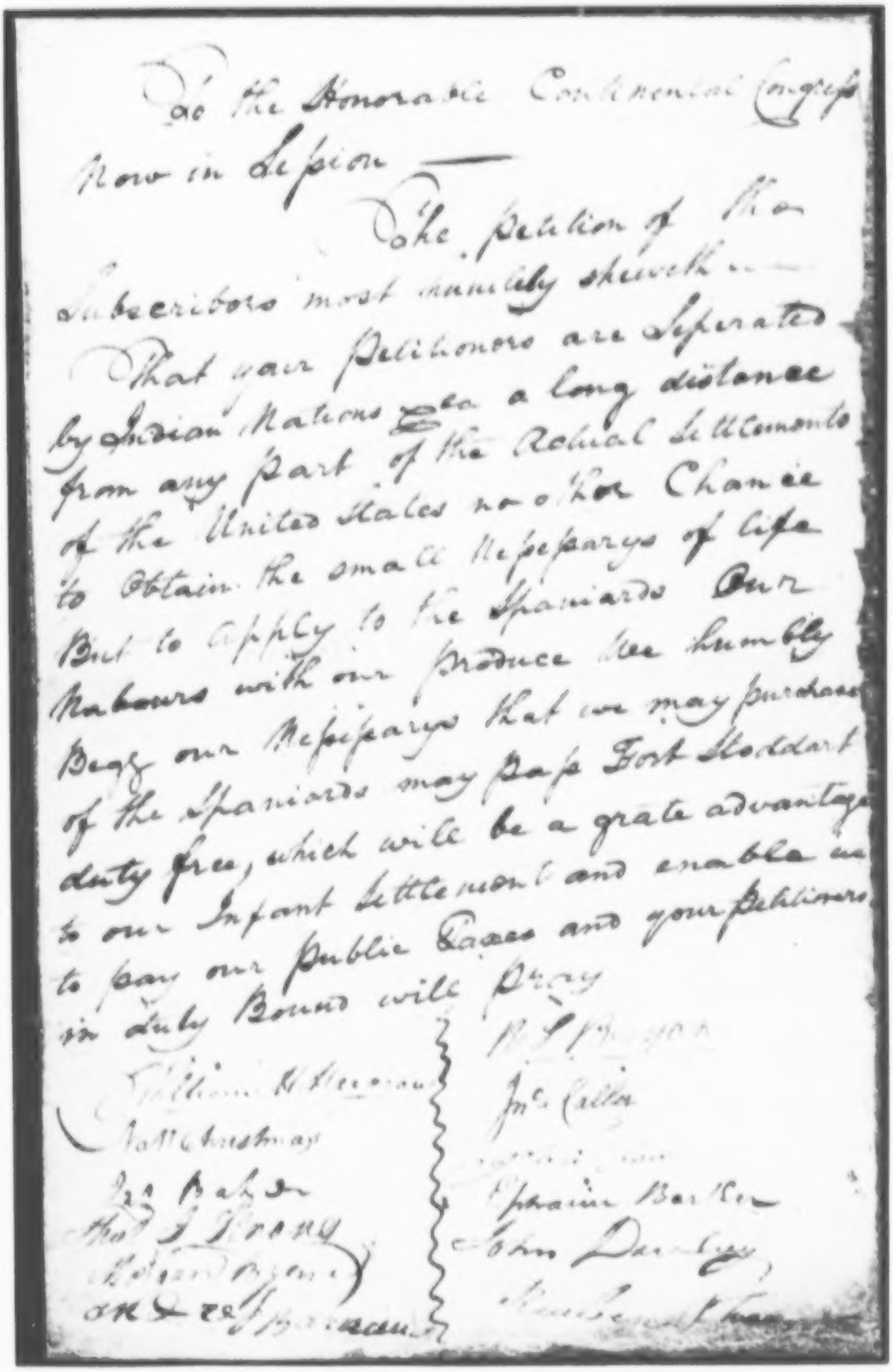
**20.24** During most of the period between 1946 and 1968 the committee had standing subcommittees on education and training, hospitals, housing, insurance, and compensation and pensions, as well as other short-lived select and standing subcommittees. No subcommittee records are in the National Archives at this time.

**20.25** The National Archives, however, does hold records of several investigations conducted by the committee between 1953 and 1958. These consist of records documenting investigations of the following: the Tuscaloosa Veterans Administration Hospital (83A-F16.1, 2 in.); the Veterans Administration loan guaranty program in 1955-58 (85A-F16.6, 6 ft.); the fund raising activities of organizations acting in the name of veterans (85A-F16.5, 6 ft.); and an investigation of certain housing projects in New Jersey in 1955-57 (85A-F16.7, 4 ft.). The records contain a variety of files and documents. Those of the housing investigation, for example, consist of files on direct loans, entitlement sales, minority housing, foreclosure practices, interest rates, homes for paraplegics, appraisal and inspection reports, and complaint correspondence.

# Chapter 21

# RECORDS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE





To the Honorable Continental Congreſs
Now in Seſsion —
The petition of the
Subscribers most humbly sheweth —
That your Petitioners are Seperated
by Indian Nations &c a long distance
from any part of the Actual Settlements
of the United States no other Chance
to Obtain the small Neceſsarys of life
But to apply to the Spaniards Our
Nabours with our produce Wee humbly
Begg our Neceſsarys that we may purchase
of the Spaniards may Paſs Fort Stoddart
duty free, which will be a grate advantage
to our Infant Settlement and enable us
to pay our Public Taxes and your Petitioners
in duty Bound will Pray

William H [illegible]
Nath Christmas
Jas Baker
Thos J [illegible]
Robert [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]
Jno Callier
[illegible]
Ephraim Barker
John Dawley
[illegible]

*This petition from "the inhabitants of Tombigbie" in Alabama, tells much about the life of these pioneers. Although it was submitted to the House on June 13, 1809, the petitioners address "To the Honorable Continental Congress" their prayer for special consideration of their situation – separated from the United States by Indian Nations, and dependent upon the Spanish and the Americans at Fort Stoddart for trade. (IIA-F9.1)*

# CHAPTER 21

# RECORDS OF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

## Committee on Ways and Means, 1795-1969

### *History and Jurisdiction*

**21.1** The Committee on Ways and Means is the oldest standing committee in Congress. The idea of a "committee on ways and means" to handle the financial matters of a legislature is older than the Federal Congress, having been used in the English Parliament and the colonial and State legislatures in America. Early in the first Congress a select committee on ways and means was formed, but subsequently was disbanded when Alexander Hamilton was appointed Secretary of the Treasury and the House chose to let him handle a large part of the financial matters of the new nation. In 1795 another Select Committee on Ways and Means was formed, and was regularly reappointed in each session until it was defined as a standing committee in 1802. Since that time the committee has functioned as one of the most powerful in the House.

**21.2** During its long history the jurisdiction and duties of the committee have changed significantly. The original jurisdiction of the standing committee in 1802 was defined as follows:

> It shall be the duty of the said Committee of Ways and Means to take into consideration all such reports of the Treasury Department, and all such propositions relative to the revenue, as may be referred to them by the House; to inquire into the state of the public debt, of the revenue, and of the expenditures, and to report, from time to time, their opinion thereon; to examine into the state of the several public departments, and particularly into the laws making appropriations of moneys, and to report whether the moneys have been disbursed conformably with such laws; and, also, to report, from time to time, such provisions and arrangements, as may be necessary to add to the economy of the departments, and the accountability of their officers.[1]

**21.3** In 1814, in order to relieve the committee of some of its duties, the jurisdiction concerning the state of the several public Departments, the laws making appropriations of money to them, and reports on whether the money was disbursed according to the laws, was given to a newly created Committee on Public Expenditures.

**21.4** The Committee on Ways and Means has reported most major revenue bills since 1794 with the exception of a period between 1819 and 1833 when the Committee on Manufactures reported a number of protectionist tariff bills including the "Tariff of Abominations" of 1828.

**21.5** Until 1865 the committee reported the overwhelming majority of all regular appropriations bills, the three main exceptions being general public works, lighthouses and associated expenses, and rivers and harbors bills that were reported by the Commerce Committee. As the business of the Government grew, the number of appropriations bills grew, as did the revenue work of the committee. In 1865, primarily as a result of overwork due to the financial demands of the Civil War, the jurisdiction of the committee was narrowed by giving portions of it to two new committees: Banking and Currency and Appropriations.

**21.6** In proposing the 1865 rule that would divide the jurisdiction of the Ways and Means, Samuel S. Cox, a member of the Select Committee on Rules observed:

> It is utterly impossible in the present condition of our finances that one committee can do all this labor. . . . powerful as the committee is constituted, even their powers of endurance, physical and mental, are not adequate to the great duty which has been imposed by the emergencies of this historic time.
>
> We divide the Ways and Means into three committees. The Ways and Means are still preserved, and their future duty is to provide "ways and means," that is, raise revenue for carrying on the Government. This includes of course, the tariff, the internal revenue, the loan bills, legal-tender notes, and all other matters connected with supporting the credit and raising money. . . . The proposed Committee on Appropriations have, under this amendment, the examination of the estimates of the Departments, and exclusively the consideration of all appropriations . . . the Committee on National Banks and Currency . . . have

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[1] *Annals of Congress*, 7th Cong., 1st sess., Jan 7, 1802, p. 412.

> in charge all the bank interests of the country. These interests are so connected by relations of exchanges and currency with bank issues and banking capital in the States that it is as much as one committee can well do to study these questions properly.[2]

**21.7** By 1880 the committee's jurisdiction rule included subjects related to the raising of revenue and the bonded debt of the United States. During the Great Depression of the 1930s the national social security programs were added to the jurisdiction of Ways and Means since they were financed by payroll taxes.

**21.8** Under the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 the jurisdiction of the committee included:

> a) customs, collection districts, and ports of entry and delivery; b) national social security; c) reciprocal trade agreements; d) revenue measures generally; e) revenue measures relating to the insular possessions; f) the bonded debt of the United States; g) the deposit of public moneys; and h) transportation of dutiable goods.[3]

**21.9** Since that time its mandate has been expanded to include general revenue sharing (until 1974), proposals for national health insurance, medicare and medicaid (until 1974), foreign trade generally, and a wide variety of measures which seek to provide policy direction through the tax system.

**21.10** The Committee on Ways and Means has always been one of the most important in the House, and has enjoyed certain privileges that go with its responsibility. During the early years, it reported the resolutions that distributed portions of the President's messages to the various committees, and concurrent resolutions for the adjournment of Congress. Before 1865 the committee reported such a large percentage of the important legislation that the chairman of Ways and Means was de-facto floor leader, and was later the named floor leader. For a brief period, 1865-95, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee was floor leader, but the position was returned to Ways and Means where it remained until 1919, after which time the floor leader was no longer a member of any committee. For many years the committee acted as the Democratic "committee on committees," appointing that party's membership to House committees.

**21.11** Since 1860 the committee has had the right to report at any time, and since 1913 it has been classified as an "exclusive committee," which denies its members membership on any other committee. For many years the important legislation reported by Ways and Means has been granted a "closed rule" on the floor because floor amendment to the complex and detailed bills would be difficult and risky.

**21.12** The records of the committee are described below in three chronological categories which correspond to its major jurisdictional and organizational changes: the 3d-38th Congresses, from its origin as a select committee in 1793 until the jurisdictions of appropriations and banking and currency were removed from its jurisdiction in 1865; the 39th-79th Congresses, from the jurisdictional split of 1865 until the reorganization of 1947; and the 80th-90th Congresses, the post-reorganization period.

**21.13** In addition to the records of the committee, the committee has retired a "historical collection" of documents (see para. 21.76) which can facilitate certain types of research concerning the committee and the subjects within its purview.

### *Records of the Committee on Ways and Means, 3d-38th Congresses (1793-1865)**

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Trans. Reports | 2 vols. | 1793-1825 | 3d-18th |
| Minute Books | 2 vols. | 1855-63 | 34th-37th |
| Docket Books | 4 vols. | 1857-65 | 35th-38th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 14 ft. | 1799-1865 | 6th-38th |
| Comm. Papers | 17 ft. | 1807-65 | 10th-38th |
| TOTAL: | 31 ft. and 8 vols. (11 in.) | | |

* See also tables for 39th-90th Congresses after paras. 21.35 and 21.62.

**21.14** The earliest records of the committee are two bound volumes of **transcribed reports** of the select and standing Committees on Ways and Means, 3d-7th Congresses (3C-A2), and 8th-18th Congresses (8C-A2), which cover the years 1793 through 1825. Both volumes contain substantially more than their titles indicate. In addition to reports on bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, and the portions of the President's messages that were referred to the committee, the volumes also contain transcribed letters and other statements from the Treasury Department, and committee responses to these, as well as excerpts from the *House Journal* that show the appointment of the committee and define its jurisdiction. The volumes contain the collected documents of the committee for the period before the publication of committee reports and documents in the *Congressional Serial Set.* After the 16th Congress (1819-21) reports of all committees of the House are printed in the *Serial Set* and are available at most depository libraries.

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[2] *Congressional Globe*, 39th Cong., 1st sess., Mar. 2, 1865, p. 1312.

[3] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, p. 356.

**21.15** Although there are no minute or docket books from the first six decades the committee functioned, after 1855 there are almost complete collections of both types of document. The **minute books** provide insights into the activities in committee meetings, including: a record of the consideration of bills and resolutions and sometimes mark-up sessions; appointment of subcommittees and referral of subjects to them; and committee discussions about proposed hearings and witnesses, and the appearance of witnesses before the committee.

**21.16** The early committee **docket books** contain entries for documents referred to the committee, and occasionally comments concerning the subsequent disposition or action on each document. The docket books for the 35th and 36th Congresses attempt to list the documents in alphabetical order according to subject, but are difficult to research because of the indexing format—all letters are listed under the alphabetical category "L" along with other subjects such as legislation, life-saving stations, and Peter Lammond. In the 37th and later Congresses, the docket books list the documents received by the committee in chronological order, and thus provide a day by day summary of the business before the committee. The 37th Congress volume, for example lists over 400 bills, resolutions, petitions, memorials, messages from the President, and letters from executive departments between July 8, 1861 and February 19, 1863.

**21.17** A large number of **petitions and memorials** were referred to the Ways and Means Committee because of its jurisdiction over revenue and appropriations. There are few petitions and memorials in the committee files for the eariest years (1799-1813), but the volume increases for the remainder of the period (1813-65). The petitions and memorials reflect the three major areas of the committee's early jurisdiction: appropriations, revenue (taxes and tariffs), and certain types of claims against the government.

**21.18** Petitions and memorials concerning the tariff laws and duties on specific commodities appear in the records of almost every Congress between the 7th and the 38th (1801-65). Some of the petitions ask for the amendment, repeal, or continuance of specific tariff laws; for example, over 16 inches of petitions were received between 1843 and 1851, most of which were against revision of the Tariff Acts of 1842 and 1846 (28A-G24.8, 29A-G22.3, 30A-G24.1, 31A-G24.1). These petitions include resolutions adopted at an 1846 mass meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, in which the petitioners demand that Congress not change the Tariff of 1842, which provided adequate protection for industry at home. The protectionist sentiment is expressed clearly in the following resolution adopted at the meeting:

> That if a government cannot protect the labor of its citizens, it is too weak—if it will not, it is too indifferent—and if it dare not, it is too cowardly to deserve the support of a free and enlightened people. (29A-G22.3)

**21.19** A large number of the petitions are from individuals or interest groups seeking to effect changes in the duties upon specific commodities such as wool or tobacco products. The records from the 28th Congress (1843-45) include petitions on the duties on guano (28A-G24.2), objects of art (28A-G24.3), railroad iron (28A-G24.4), and salt (28A-G24.5), as well as petitions relating to the Tariff of 1842 (28A-G24.8). The 33d Congress (1853-55) records include petitions involving the tariffs on iron, coal, glass and cotton (32A-G24.10), salt, ivory, and raw silk (32A-G24.11), and a file on customhouses (32A-G24.7).

**21.20** Petitions relating to various excise and direct taxes also appear in the records of nearly every Congress prior to the Civil War. A tax imposed on distilleries and distilled spirits is the subject of numerous petitions asking for repeal of the law or seeking reimbursement for damages caused by its enforcement (7A-F3.1, 13A-G12.6, 14A-F15.6, 38A-G24.14). The petition of one distiller, Levi Bellows, asking for payment for damages done by United States tax collectors, contains a large number of documents recording his dealings with the tax collectors and the Vermont district courts in the case (16A-G20.2).

**21.21** Other petitions protest against a tax on the auction system (21A-G21.1), a tax on coal (24A-G21.2), the enactment of a tax on dogs (38A-G24.4), a national income tax (38A-G24.11), a capitation tax on immigrants (32A-G24.3), a tax on the gross receipts of ships and vessels (38A-G24.13), and excise taxes on domestic manufactures (14A-F15.2).

**21.22** Petitions submitting private claims appear in the records of every Congress between 1809 and 1864. The claims referred to Ways and Means covered a wide range of problems. The claims petitions from the 34th Congress (1855-57) include a prayer to be released from a contract to carry the mail; a claim for indemnification to a stockholder for losses by the Bank of the United States; a claim for refund of certain duties wrongly paid by the petitioner; a request for an appropriation to pay arrears in pensions; and, ten petitions from government employees (lighthouse keepers, customs collectors, clerks at assay offices, and clerks and watchmen at executive departments) asking increased compensation due to extraordinary circumstances (34A-G22.1).

**21.23** The claims petitions referred to the committee during the 12th Congress (1811-13) provide more examples of the claims referred to the committee. They include petitions from George Lyon, an assistant clerk at the patent office, asking that a special appropriation be made to pay his salary; from Doyle Sweeney, asking for compensation for working as a clerk in the surveyor's office; from Commodore Joshua Barney, asking for himself and owners and crews of private armed vessels, to be better rewarded for their seizures of enemy property under the "Act of Non-Importation"; from several persons who thought their property had been wrongly seized by customs or revenue officers; and from Stephen Kingston, who made an appeal for enemy property seized from a vessel he helped identify (12A-F10.4).

**21.24** Petitions for increases or reductions in the pay of Government employees appear in the records of many Congresses (8A-F4.2, 9A-F6.1, 10A-F8.1, 12A-F10.1, 14A-F15.3, 16A-G20.1, 21A-G21.3, 32A-G24.9). Many of the early appeals to increase government salaries were made by government employees, especially collectors of revenue. They are not classified as "claims" because they pray for pay raises rather than for special compensation due to extraordinary services rendered, or extraordinary costs incurred in the line of duty.

**21.25** The subject of currency, coinage and mints appears under various headings in the petition files for each Congress between 1851 and 1865: Branch mints (32A-G24.2); opposition to the removal of a U.S. Mint from Philadelphia (33A-G25.7); mint and assay offices (35A-G25.3); copper coins (36A-G22.1); the establishment of a branch mint in New York City (37A-G20.5); national currency (37A-G20.2); and the location of a branch mint in Portland, OR (38A-G24.9). The petitions provide evidence of public opinion, and in some cases may contain unique sources of historical data. For instance, a 31st Congress (1849-51) memorial from Professor R.S. McCulloh of the College of New Jersey in Princeton, requested "an investigation and legislation in relation to a new method of refining gold" (31A-G24.3). The voluminous memorial submitted by Professor McCulloh, formerly a melter and refiner of the United States Mint, consists of a 25-page printed memorial and 70 attached exhibits. It presents McCulloh's view of some of the problems of refining, and may contain valuable information about American refining at mid-century.

**21.26** A wide range of transient subjects appear in the petition files of several Congresses, such as: the embargo between 1811 and 1815 (12A-F10.3, 13A-G12.4); the charter of the Bank of the United States between 1831 and 1839 (22A-G24.1, 23A-G20.2); the debts of the Republic of Texas between 1851 and 1855 (32A-G24.5, 33A-G25.3); and the colonization of free Negroes in Liberia at mid-century (32A-G24.6). There are petitions concerning internal improvements during the decade of the 1840s: improvement of rivers and harbors (26A-G25.2); breakwaters, lighthouses, and piers (27A-G25.1); and the improvement of the Hudson River (28A-G24.6). The records from 1813-15 contain petitions from persons who had been imprisoned for debt (13A-G12.5).

**21.27** The **committee papers** consist primarily of communications from executive agencies concerning appropriations; correspondence and documents from individuals relating to claims; correspondence relating to revenue policy; and copies of bills, resolutions, and committee reports. The records are arranged by subject, and a listing of subject categories for each Congress is contained in the *Preliminary Inventory to Records of the House of Representatives, 1789-1946.*

**21.28** Records relating to appropriations to finance the government constitute the largest portion of the committee papers before the Civil War. After the war similar records related to appropriations are located in the committee papers of the Appropriations Committee. Appropriations records in the early committee papers (1799-1825) are not voluminous and are usually filed under a single heading as in the 12th Congress, "papers relative to the appropriations for the support of the Government in 1813" (12A-C10.1, 1 in.), or the 15th Congress file, "papers relating to estimates and appropriations" (15A-D15.1, 3 in.).

**21.29** After the 18th Congress, records relating to appropriations are more voluminous and the descriptive categories used are more differentiated. The records are filed by the Department, Bureau or activity to which they relate—the records of the 35th Congress (1857-59), for example, contain appropriations records relating to the census; the consular and diplomatic service; the courts in the District of Columbia; the Houses of Congress; the Interior Department including the land office system; Indians; pensions; lighthouses; Navy shop equipment; the Northwestern Boundary Survey; the postal service; printing and binding; public buildings and property; the Smithsonian Institution; the territories; and the White House (selected files 35A-D22.1 through 35A-D22.22).

**21.30** The files generally contain documents from or about the executive Departments, including estimates of appropriations, letters requesting and justifying appropriations, progress reports, documents relating to Government contracts, and documents concerning the quality of workmanship and the economical use of appropriated money. A typical estimate of an appropriations file from an Agency contains copies of reports from the Agency along with charts, schedules, letters, correspondence, and other documents supporting the reports.

**21.31** Some documents provide insight into the operations of the executive branch in general; for instance, the committee papers from the 10th Congress (10A-C6.1) contain a chart showing salaries of Government employees in 1808, and the 27th Congress records contain a file on "clerks and officers in the Government" that includes correspondence from the executive departments and bureaus describing the duties and pay of their employees about 1841 (27A-D24.3).

**21.32** While records relating to appropriations make up the largest portion of the committee papers for most Congresses, the subjects of tariff or tax policy, collection of duties, and related revenue subjects also appear frequently. Revenue subjects appear under a variety of headings in the committee papers files: Duties (14A-C16.1), direct tax in Delaware and Georgia (14A-C16.3), comparative schedules of tariffs, imports, and exports for 1815-1819 (16A-D25.1), revenue and finance (17A-C26.3), duties on woolens (19A-D22.1), reduction of duties on imports (22A-D25.4, 34A-D23.1), collection of duties on imports (26A-D29.7, 30A-D25.1), tariff and tariff policy (29A-D22.11), income tax (37A-E20.14), tariff (37A-E20.17, 38A-E22.18), taxation policy (38A-E22.19), and commodity tariff and other taxation (38A-E22.4).

**21.33** Records relating to foreign trade and tariff policy during the 19th century are sometimes located in the records of the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures (1795-1819), the Committee on Commerce (1819-91), and the Committee on Manufactures (1819-1911). There are petitions and memorials and other records involving duties, drawbacks, the protection of American industry, and related subjects in the records of these committees in every Congress between 1799 and 1835.

**21.34** The committee papers contain records relating to the Bank of the United States (21A-D24.1, 22A-D25.1, 23A-D22.2, 25A-D23.1); coinage and finance (35A-D22.3); currency, a national bank, and an independent treasury (25A-D26.5); foreign money (29A-D22.2); and a plan for an exchequer (27A-D24.2). Jurisdiction over these subjects was transferred to the Banking and Currency Committee after 1865.

**21.35** There are claims records for almost every Congress before the Civil War. The claims records in the committee papers files are usually related to the claims petitions in the petition and memorial files. Generally, a claim petition and supporting documents submitted with it are filed in the petition and memorial files, and the material subsequently collected or generated by the committee are in the committee papers file—this usually consists of a manuscript copy of a committee report on a claim petition, and occasionally a report on a claim from an executive agency.

*Records of the Committee on Ways and Means, 39th-79th Congresses (1865-1946)**

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 37 vols. | 1875-87, 1893-1909<br>1911-46 | 44th-49th, 51st-60th<br>62d-79th |
| Docket Books | 36 vols. | 1865-1901 | 39th-56th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 150 ft. | 1865-1903, 1905-46 | 39th-57th, 59th-79th |
| Comm. Papers | 259 ft. | 1865-1946 | 39th-79th |
| Bill Files | 36 ft. | 1903-46 | 58th-79th |

TOTAL: 445 ft. and 73 vols. (6 ft., 2 in.)

*See para. 21.13 for records from the 3d-38th Cong. and para. 21.62 for 80th-90th Cong.

**21.36** The **minute books** are generally thorough. They record the attendance and agenda of meetings of the committee, including appointment of standing subcommittees and referral of documents to them, appointment of committee clerks, committee discussions of legislation, mark-up sessions, and preparation of committee reports.

**21.37** Some minute books include roll call votes, and some include brief entries listing activities in executive sessions (60th Congress minutes). The minutes may also contain detailed records of markup sessions such as those on December 11 and 12, 1893 during which the committee marked up the Wilson-Gorman tariff bill (53A-F46.5, 17 pages).

**21.38** The minutes document numerous decisions that affected the operations of the committee; for instance, the minutes of the 46th Congress note that on April 29, 1879, James Garfield was appointed chairman of a subcommittee to inquire into the subject of what books the committee would require for its new technical library.

**21.39** The **docket books** of the Ways and Means Committee provide an important source of documentation for a variety of types of research. They provide a continuous record of the documents referred to the committee and, in some cases, "chairman's remarks" regarding their disposition. Committee calendars continue this type of documentation after the docket book series stops. The committee "Historical Series" contains committee calendars from the 60th through the 75th Congresses (1907-38); later calendars are filed among the committee papers.

**21.40** There is at least one docket book for each Congress between 1865 and 1901, and in many cases there are several docket books for different types of dockets, such as a docket book for House and Senate Bills and Resolutions, and one or more docket books for petitions. The active committee of the 53d Congress (1893-95) left four volumes of dockets—three petition docket books that list over 2,600 petitions in chronological order of receipt, and a mailing docket that contains an alphabetical list of persons who received copies of committee publications. The 2,600 entries listed in the petition dockets amount to 9 linear feet in the petition and memorial files; they include a large number of documents on the Wilson Tariff bill (53A-H33.11, 45 in.) and smaller numbers on specific sections of the tariff bill, such as coal and iron ore (53A-H33.6, 8 in.), books (53A-H33.3, 1 in.), alcohol, beer, whiskey, and other distilled spirits (53A-H33.1, 1 in.), barley and flax (53A-H33.2, 2 in.), and cigars and tobacco (53A-H33.5, 29 in.). The 53d Congress records also contain petitions on the income tax (53A-H33.10, 4 in.).

**21.41** Although the jurisdiction of the committee was truncated after the 38th Congress (appropriations and banking legislation having been removed), there is a marked increase in the size of the **petition and memorial** files after 1865. Petitions and memorials for this period average 4 feet per Congress, the main subjects being the government revenue policies regarding taxes and tariffs, the bonded debt of the United States, foreign trade, and embargoes and commercial treaty matters. Other subjects of concern during this period include the payment of special bonuses to military officers and enlisted men, and proposals for unemployment insurance and other forms of social insurance. The petitions and memorials are arranged by subject when a sufficient quantity of petitions on a subject were received, or in a catch-all "various subjects" category for miscellaneous small subjects.

**21.42** During the first half of this period the bulk of the petitions referred to the committee pertain to taxation and the tariff. Tariff petitions drop off markedly after the 64th Congress when the U.S. Tariff Commission was created (1916). As in the earlier files, petitions and memorials relating to tariffs on specific commodities appear consistently in the records of every Congress and are arranged by commodity or commodity groups. The grouping of like commodities makes possible a certain level of description, but it also makes the searches for particular subjects more complex than simple alphabetical subject searches. For example, the files for the 46th Congress (1879-81) cover the following subject groups: cattle, sheep, and horses (46A-H24.4); chrome, iron ore, and bichromate of potash (46A-H24.5); cigarettes, cigars, and tobacco (46A-H24.6); medicine, perfumes, and cosmetics (46A-H24.19); and wine, distilled and fermented liquors, and beer (46A-H24.34). The commodity subject groups are arranged alphabetically by the first commodity to appear in the group.

**21.43** One of the largest petitions was received by the committee during the 52d Congress (1891-93) from tailors opposed to the free entry of wearing apparel and other personal effects belonging to immigrants arriving in the country (52A-H24.16, 5 ft.). The petition forms, which were printed in the May 1892 issue of *The Sartorial Arts Journal*, express the displeasure of merchant tailors with the construction of section 2 of the Free List of the Tariff Act of October 1, 1890.

**21.44** In addition to those petitions and memorials suggesting alterations in the tax or tariff on specific commodities, there are others favoring more general changes in the revenue laws. Examples include petitions for the creation of a Tariff Commission (46A-H24.3, 47A-H22.17, 60A-H36.1, 61A-H34.2), petitions on the general reduction of tariffs (44A-H20.31, 45A-H25.31, 47A-H22.9, 49A-H25.15, 51A-H23.9, 52A-H24.11), and petitions on income tax and other tax laws (40A-H19.11, 41A-H15.7, 45A-H25.1, 53A-H33.10, 63A-H30.2, and every Congress between 1919 and 1933).

**21.45** The petitions on taxes fall into various categories: a national income tax (38A-G24.11, 40A-H27.19, 46A-H24.14, 53A-H33.10, 63A-H30.2, 71A-H18.6), a tax on corporations (61A-H34.21, 62A-H31.1), tax reduction (40A-H19.14), tax law repeal (42A-H15.10), and others. There are also petitions on taxes on specific commodities and activities such as fire insurance company premiums (39A-H25.19), medicinal preparations (42A-H15.11), bologna sausage (44A-H20.3), and legacy and succession taxes (41A-H15.11). A tax on bank deposits and checks generated over 4 feet of petitions between 1875 and 1883 (44A-H29.2, 45A-H25.37, 46A-24.30, 47A-H22.26).

**21.46** Other subjects which appear in the petition and memorial files include the funding of the national debt (41A-H15.6, 46A-H24.22, 48A-H30.8); repeal of the Specie Resumption Act (45A-H25.29); banking and currency (39A-H25.2, 43A-H19.1, 45A-H25.12); trusts, combines, and monopolies (51A-H23.13); adulteration of pure food (55A-H29.2); a commission to study the alcoholic liquor traffic (44A-H20.1, 45A-H25.1); a commission to study prohibition (63A-H30.4); Government wages and hours (46A-H24.33, 70A-H15.3, 72A-H16.17); and a plan for a subtreasury (51A-H23.11).

**21.47** The apparent importance of a subject did not necessarily determine the volume of petitions it would generate. For example, during the 64th Congress (1915-17) there were petitions: asking Congress to prohibit the sale of arms and ammunition to the belligerents in Europe (64A-H26.15); praying for passage of legislation to levy a tax on corporate profits in excess of 8 percent (64A-H26.17) and for passage of H.J. Res. 127, a resolution to call upon the Allied Powers to allow Germany and Austria to import milk for the relief of babies (64A-H26.7); proposing an embargo on the exportation of foodstuffs (64A-H26.7); protesting the taxes imposed under the Emergency Revenue Act (64A-H26.8), and numerous other subjects. The largest number of petitions were concerned with a tax on mail-order houses (46A-H26.14, 2 ft.).

**21.48** Just after the end of World War I the subjects in the petition and memorial files begin to change. Large numbers of petitions and memorials concerning various forms of adjusted compensation and loans for veterans, and bonuses for officers and enlisted men are among the records of every Congress between 1919 and 1936 (66A-H21.1, 67A-H23.4, 68A-H21.1, 69A-H18.1, 70A-H15.5, 71A-H18.2, 72A-H16.1, 73A-H21.1, 74A-H20.1). During this period, veterans also petitioned for better hospital facilities (66A-H21.2).

**21.49** Beginning about 1933 the records from every Congress contain petitions and memorials requesting some form of national social security legislation. The files for the 74th Congress (1935-36) contain over 11 feet of petitions and memorials demanding some type of old age and unemployment insurance (74A-H20.12), or favoring the Townsend plan (74A-H20.11) or the Will Rogers pension plan (74A-H20.11). In addition to records in the petition and memorial files, the committee records for the years following 1933 contain voluminous committee papers files and bill files on the subject of social insurance (see paragraphs 21.59-60.).

**21.50 Committee papers** average 2 feet per Congress before the 60th Congress (1907), and 11 feet per Congress from the 61st through 79th Congresses. The records are arranged by subject and reflect the important changes in the issues that affected the committee during the 82 year period between the Civil War and World War II.

**21.51** During this period the committee papers from almost every Congress contain files on tariff policy, tax policy, and the tariffs and taxes on various commodities. These files make up a large proportion of the total committee papers files throughout most of the period. For example, about half of the committee papers from the 61st through 71st Congresses (1909-31) relate to taxes or tariffs. The records include correspondence on: The Revenue Acts of 1924 (68A-F39.1), 1926 (69A-F41.7), 1928 (70A-F32.3), 1937 (75A-F38.1), and 1943 (78A-F38.19); tariff "free-list" correspondence (61A-F48.2, 62A-F37.2, 63A-F39.3); the Emergency Tariff Act of 1921 (67A-F39.4 and F39.5), and the Tariff Act of 1922 (67A-F39.8 and F39.9); and various other tariff acts (61A-F48.1, 62A-F37.1, 63A-F39.2, 66A-F38.2, 70A-F32.4, 71A-F36.5). The correspondence that is concerned with the tariff or tax on a particular commodity is usually arranged alphabetically by the name of the commodity or by the schedule that applies to it.

**21.52** Other tax-related records include Internal Revenue Service lists of adjustments paid for taxes illegally or erroneously collected between 1924 and 1927 (67A-F39.7, 68A-F39.1, 69A-F41.6, 11 ft.).

**21.53** Committee papers also contain records of investigations conducted by the committee on subjects such as whiskey revenue frauds (40A-F27.12) and other revenue frauds (40A-F27.13); the transfer of gold and other transactions of the subtreasury at San Francisco with the Bank of California (41A-F27.14); a subsidy to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company (42A-F30.9, 43A-F30.4); and the New York Customhouse (45A-F36.5).

**21.54** The records include files on subjects related to commercial treaty relations of the United States with other nations, such as reciprocity treaties and reciprocal trade agreements (39A-F27.8, 40A-F27.4, 54A-F43.9, 79A-F37.2); violation of the United States-Russian treaty of 1833 with respect to hemp (41A-F27.2); trade with Brazil (42A-F30.12); a duty on fish caught in Canadian waters (46A-F36.2); a treaty of commerce with Mexico (48A-F36.11); commercial treaties and trade information (51A-F41.2); and the Mexican "Free Zone" (53A-F46.3).

**21.55** Records relating to claims form a less significant part of the records of the committee, but there are separate claims files for the 47th, 48th and 51st Congresses (47A-F30.2, 48A-F36.3, 51A-F41.1). Additional claims records may be found in the "various subjects" headings, or in various locations in the alphabetical subject files.

**21.56** Other subjects that appear in the committee papers include the World's Columbian Exposition (53A-F46.2); the condition of national finances (54A-F43.5, 59A-F36.2); adulteration of food and drink such as cheese and butter (47A-F30.1) and beer (54A-F43.2); drawbacks on exports (many Congresses); banking and currency, including greenback inflation and resumption of specie payment (40A-F27.32); the Customs Service (67A-F39.3); alien property (69A-F41.4); birth control (72A-F29.2); Federal aid to States (75A-F38.2); and the National Firearms Registration Act (75A-F38.4, 4 feet).

**21.57** The committee papers files after the 60th Congress (1907-09) contain large correspondence files expressing the opinions of lawyers, businessmen, and a wide variety of other citizens on public policy issues. During this period correspondence in the committee papers files replaces the petitions and memorials as the primary source of documentation of public opinion. The records relating to the proposed veteran's bonus provide an example of the dispersal of subject-related records in the committee files.

**21.58** The subject of bonuses or "adjusted conpensation" for veterans appears in both petition and memorial and committee papers files of most Congresses between the 66th and 74th (1919-36). The records of the 66th Congress (1919-21) contain over 3 feet of correspondence in the committee papers file (66A-F38.2), and 1 foot of petitions and memorials (66A-H21.1) on the subject. The 67th Congress records contain 2 feet of correspondence on the veteran's bonus in the committee papers (67A-F39.1), as well as petitions and memorials (67A-H23.1), and a bill file (67A-D36) for H.R. 10874, the veteran's bonus bill, which contains President Warren G. Harding's original veto message.

**21.59** The dispersal of communications from citizens concerned about the need for national social insurance provides another example of the distribution of subject related documents throughout the committee's files. After the 73d Congress, records relating to some type of social insurance appear in the bill files, petitions and memorials, and committee papers of every Congress until at least the 83d (1954). The Ways and Means Committee records relating to this subject in the 73d Congress (1933-34) are slight, consisting of a bill file on the Wagner-Lewis unemployment insurance bill (73A-D33), and a few petitions on unemployment insurance (73A-H21.20). During the 74th Congress (1935-36) the committee was flooded with over 11 feet of communications on the subject: there are petitions on the Townsend plan (74A-H20.11), unemployment and old-age insurance (74A-H20.12), and the Will Rogers' pension plan (74A-H20.13); there are bill files on H.R. 7260, the Social Security Act (74A-D38) and H.R. 4120, the Economic Security Act (74A-D38); and there is correspondence filed alphabetically under "Social Security" (74A-F39.1) in the committee papers correspondence file. After 1933 the committee records for every Congress contain correspondence and/or petitions relating to the subject.

**21.60** The 75th Congress file contains over 5 feet of material in a bill file on H.R. 4199, the Townsend recovery act or general welfare act of 1937, as well as petitions on the subject. The 76th Congress committee papers file contains over 7 feet of correspondence on the Townsend plan, 6 feet on the Social Security Act, 6 feet of consolidated printed hearings on social security along with index cards to the hearings, and almost 5 feet of petitions and memorials on social security, welfare and relief.

**21.61** The committee papers files also contain several types of administrative records. The records from 1865 through 1871 contain lists that may have been used in the appointment of House Members to membership on various House Committees (39A-F27.1, 40A-F27.2, 41A-F27.4). The records of numerous Congresses contain mailing lists and "request correspondence" files that provide evidence of the numbers and types of persons who requested and received prints of the committee hearings, reports, and bills, and who may have testified on the important finance issues. These records may be buried in alphabetical subject files (sometimes filed under "R" for "request correspondence"), but they are sometimes broken out as separate categories. Some of the "request correspondence" files between 1909 and 1941 (61A-F48.5, 68A-F39.1, 69A-F41.8, 71A-F36.3, 72A-F29.14, and 76A-F41.1) are voluminious, averaging over 1 foot per Congress.

**21.62** There are **bill files** for every Congress between the 58th and 79th. The files generally contain the same types of records that are found in the committee papers files, except that they are arranged by bill or resolution number, instead of by subject. In most cases, the bill files should be used in conjunction with the correspondence files in the committee papers because some documents may be filed by subject while others are filed by bill. The bill files average less than 2 feet per Congress with the exception of the 75th Congress file which contains 6 feet of correspondence on HR 3134, a tax on fuel oil, and 6 feet of correspondence on HR 4199, the 1937 Townsend recovery act.

***Records of the Committee on Ways and Means, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-68)****

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 73 vols. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 15 ft. | 1947-66 | 80th-89th |
| Comm. Papers | 275 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bill Files | 114 ft. | 1947-68 | 80th-90th |
| Bound Documents | 84 ft. | 1881-1978 | 47th-96th |
| Hist. Collection | 9 ft. | 1789-1952 | 1st-82d |

TOTAL: 497 ft. and 73 vols. (56 ft.)

* See also tables for 3d-79th Congress following paras. 21.13 and 21.35.

**21.63** There are no **docket books** after 1947, but the committee calendars document much of the information that had been included in the docket books previously.

**21.64** The **minute books** of the Ways and Means Commitee for the 80th to 90th Congresses are the most voluminous, and probably the most complete of any committee in Congress. Beginning in the 81st Congress (1949-50) the minutes are so extensive that they require multiple volumes. The minute books include the actual minutes typed on loose leaf pages and bound together with a wide variety of related documents such as transcripts of executive session hearings, confidential committee prints, printed bills and resolutions, and briefs and summaries of legislation prepared for committee meetings. Some of the minute volumes are indexed.

**21.65** The typed minutes proper (not counting the exhibits and other attached documents) appear to be very thorough, including summaries of the comments of all speakers at meetings. Minutes of some executive session meetings appear to be especially well documented; for instance the executive session meeting of November 29, 1950, includes 23 pages of discussion summary and roll call vote tallies.

**21.66** There are two volumes of subcommittee minutes. One volume contains minutes from the Subcommittee on Internal Revenue Taxation, 85th Congress. The second volume contains the minutes from the Subcommittees on Excise Taxes, 85th Congress; Foreign Trade Policy, 85th Congress; Administration of the Social Security Laws, 86th Congress; Administration of the Internal Revenue Laws, 81st-83d Congresses; and Customs, Tariffs, and Reciprocal Trade Agreements, 85th Congress.

**21.67** The **petition and memorial** files for the 80th-89th Congresses are generally smaller than those from the period between the Civil War and World War II because correspondence replaced petitions and memorials as the primary method for citizens to express their concerns to Congress. The subjects of the petitions and memorials included excise taxes, income taxes, taxes on State and municipal bond interest, tariffs, social security, pension plans for the self-employed, medical care for the aged, and trade agreements. Petitions favoring the Townsend plans appear in the records until the 83d Congress (1954). The more recent files contain resolutions from State and Territorial governments and small numbers of petitions and memorials from private citizens.

**21.68** The **committee papers** consist primarily of correspondence arranged by subject. In addition to correspondence, there are usually executive communications, messages from the President, transcripts of hearings, printed copies of bills and resolutions, hearings and reports, and a variety of other types of documents.

**21.69** Correspondence files comprise the bulk of the committee papers. They may be arranged by subject in alphabetical order or in large files on a given subject filed individually—not as part of a larger alpha-file. The subject files generally consist of correspondence from private citizens, from interested trade or professional organizations or businesses, and from other government agencies. They occasionally contain documents relating to hearings, materials submitted or procured by the committee for research purposes, memos and other documents produced by staff members, and other documents relating to the subject. An 80th Congress (1947-48) file on tax exempt cooperatives (80A-F18.6) consists of 8 feet of correspondence and 1 foot of statements, briefs, summaries, and other documents submitted at hearings on the subject. In several Congresses the subject files are supplemented by chronological files of outgoing correspondence called "green files" (86A-F17).

**21.70** There are correspondence files on social security in the records of each Congress between the 80th and 90th. Other subjects that appear are income tax, tax reduction, tax exemption, and tax revision; pensions, annuities, and medical care for the aged; excess profits, capital gains and double taxation of bonds; the tariffs; reciprocal trade agreements; renegotiation of war contracts; a national lottery; postal rates; revenue sharing; the Revenue Act of 1964; unemployment compensation; veteran's legislation; and natural resources taxation.

**21.71** The committee papers contain records of numerous subcommittees, but the records of the subcommittees are usually spotty and incomplete. Subcommittee records are most numerous for the 82d and 83d Congresses (1951-54). The 82d Congress (1951-52) records contain correspondence and reports from the **Subcommittee on Amortization**; news releases and summaries of hearings from the **Subcommittee on Unemployment Insurance**; news releases, transcripts of executive sessions, press releases, bills, and studies from the **Subcommittee on Coordination of Federal, State, and Local Taxes**; and reports from various agencies from the **Subcommittee on Narcotics**. The 83d Congress (1953-54) records contain correspondence, hearings and reports from the **Subcommittee on Taxation of Life Insurance Companies**, and a substantial file from the **Subcommittee on Social Security**, which includes correspondence, clippings from newspapers and periodicals, press releases, speech material, hearings and other material analyzing the social security system, and various staff working papers.

**21.72** The most complete subcommittee records are from the **Subcommittee on the Administration of the Internal Revenue Laws**, which was established in

1950 and issued its final report in 1953. There are 4 feet of transcripts, exhibits, and page proofs of hearings in the 82d Congress records, and 2 feet of correspondence and hearings in the 83d Congress records. A large collection (59 feet) of records retired separately contains the general files of the subcommittee. The records are arranged like a large subject file covering administrative, investigative, and legislative subjects. There is a folder title list that is indispensible for locating subjects in the large file.

**21.73** There are **bill files** from every Congress between the 80th and 90th, although the files for the 80th through 82d Congresses are fragmentary. The 83d Congress file contains over 4 feet of bill files, which consist of copies of the bills and reports, copies of speeches made by representatives, correspondence from executive agencies, and correspondence from lobbyists. Some of the bill files contain transcripts of executive session meetings.

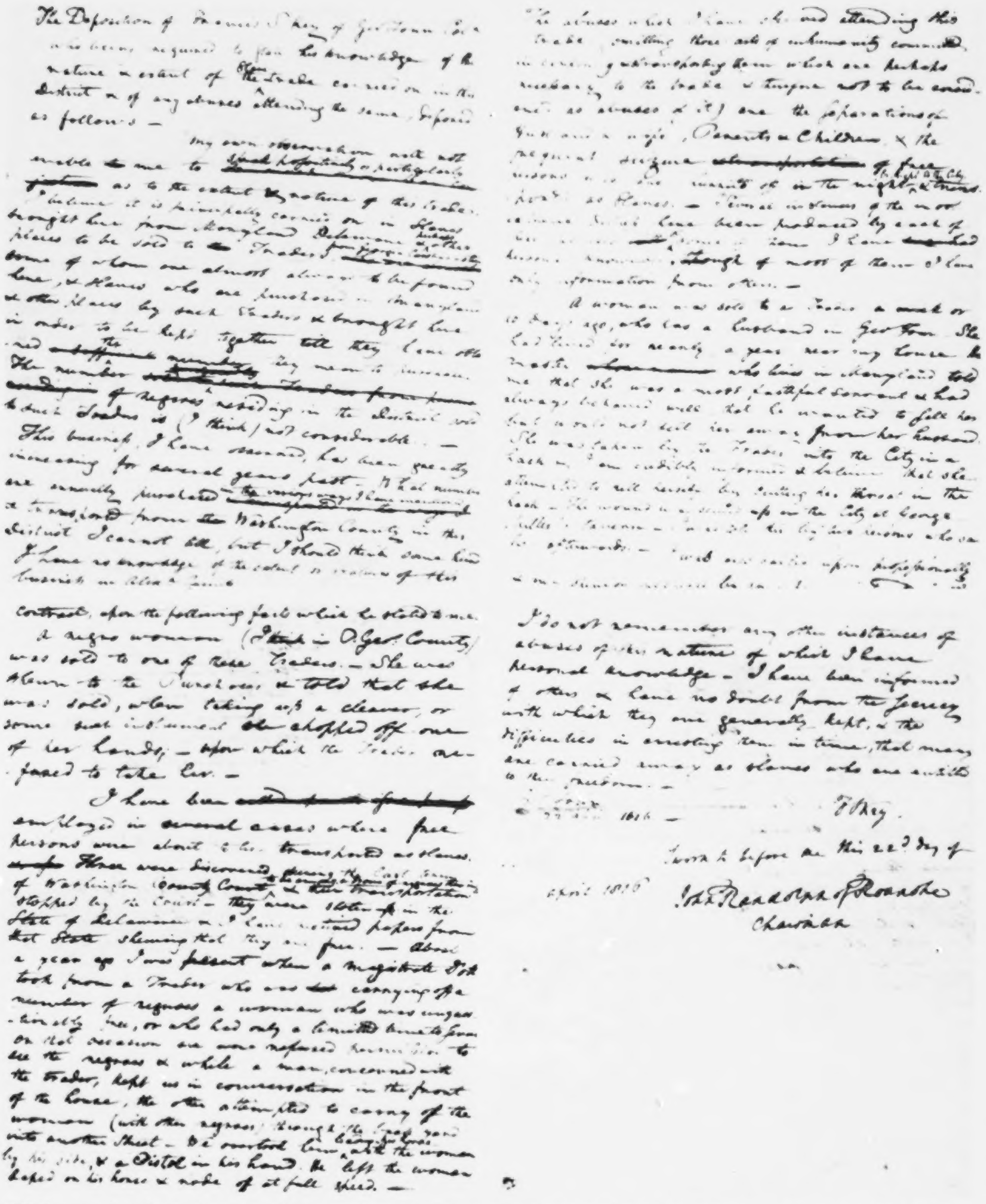
**21.74** The **bill files** from the 84th through the 88th Congress are arranged in two series: a series of "bills not reported" and a series of "bills reported" by the committee. The files from the 80th-82d Congresses (1947-52) are sparse and incomplete, together totaling less than 1 foot of material, while the files of later years contain as much as 25 ft. per Congress. The files on certain pieces of legislation are voluminous; for instance, the file on H.R. 6675, 89th Congress, a bill to provide for old age hospital insurance under the Social Security Act, measures over 5 feet, and includes several oversize briefing books. The bill files from the 88th Congress contain a 3 foot file on H.R. 11865, the Social Security Act Amendments of 1964, and over 7 feet of documentation on H.R. 8363, the Revenue Act of 1964.

**21.75** The records of the Ways and Means Committee include two special collections of material that provide easy access to vital information about its work. A collection of **bound documents** (84 feet) consisting of bills, resolutions, and communications from the executive department covers the period between 1881 and 1980.

**21.76** The **historical collection** contains a variety of printed material, mostly congressional publications, and research notes of staff members prepared as part of historical studies of the committee. Included are collections of reports of the committee and acts of the committee from the 50th through the 82d Congress (1887-1952), compilations of tariff acts from 1789 to 1909, and copies of various documents printed by Congress concerning tariff acts from the 40th through the 81st Congress. There is a collection of the calendars of the Ways and Means Committee for the 60th through 75th Congresses, and the Senate Finance Committee for the 66th through 81st Congresses, and a set of indexes to reports of the Senate Finance Committee from the 31st through 54th Congresses. Other documents include lists of committee membership from the 1st through 79th Congresses, a list of committee reports for the 14th through 59th Congresses, a collection of documents from around 1933 concerning reciprocal trade agreements, and voluminous notes on various aspects of the committee's business.

# Chapter 22

# RECORDS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



The Deposition of Francis S. Key of Geo Town D.C. who being required to state his knowledge of the nature & extent of the slave trade carried on in this District & of any abuses attending the same, deposes as follows —

My own observation does not enable ~~to~~ me to speak positively or particularly ~~[illegible]~~ as to the extent & nature of this trade. I believe it is principally carried on in slaves brought here from Maryland Delaware & other places to be sold to the Traders from Georgia Carolina &c some of whom are almost always to be found here, & slaves who are purchased in Maryland & other places by such Traders & brought here in order to be kept together till they have the ~~sufficient number~~ number they mean to procure. The number ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ of negroes residing in the District sold to such Traders is (I think) not considerable. — This business, I have observed, has been greatly increasing for several years past. What number are annually purchased ~~[illegible]~~ & transported from the Washington County in this District I cannot tell, but I should think some hun[illegible] I have no knowledge of the extent or nature of this business in Alexa County

contrast, upon the following fact which he stated to me.

A negro woman (I think in P. Geo. County) was sold to one of these Traders. — She was shewn to the Purchaser & told that she was sold, when taking up a cleaver, or some such instrument she chopped off one of her hands; — upon which the Trader refused to take her. —

I have been ~~[illegible]~~ employed in ~~several~~ cases where free persons were about to be transported as slaves. ~~[illegible]~~ Three were discovered during the last term of Washington County Court & their transportation stopped by the Court — they were stolen in the State of Delaware & I have received papers from that State shewing that they are free. — About a year ago I was present when a Magistrate [illegible] took from a Trader who was ~~[illegible]~~ carrying off a number of negroes a woman who was unquestionably free, or who had only a limitted time to serve On that occasion we were refused permission to see the negroes & while a man, concerned with the trader, kept us in conversation in the front of the house, the other attempted to carry off the woman (with other negroes) through the back yard into another street — I overtook him, having her with the woman by his side, & a Pistol in his hand. He left the woman leaped on his horse & rode off at full speed. —

The abuses which I have observed attending this trade, omitting those acts of inhumanity committed in [illegible] which are perhaps necessary to the trade & therefore not to be considered as abuses of it) are the separations of husband and wife, Parents & Children & the frequent seizure ~~[illegible]~~ of free persons who are carried off in the night [illegible] & transported as slaves. — Several instances of the most cruel kind have been produced by each of [illegible] some of them I have ~~[illegible]~~ personal knowledge, though of most of them I have only information from others. —

A woman was sold to a Trader a week or 10 days ago, who has a husband in Geo Town. She had lived for nearly a year near my house. Her master ~~[illegible]~~ who lives in Maryland told me that she was a most faithful servant & had always behaved well that he wanted to sell her but would not sell her away from her husband. She was taken by the Trader into the City in a hack & I am credibly informed & believe that she attempted to kill herself by cutting her throat in the hack. The wound was sewed up in the City at George Miller's Tavern [illegible] who saw her afterwards. — [illegible]

I do not remember any other instances of abuses of this nature of which I have personal knowledge — I have been informed of others & have no doubt from the secrecy with which they are generally kept, & the difficulties in arresting them in time, that many are carried away as slaves who are entitled to their freedom. —

[illegible] 1816 — F S Key.

Sworn to before me this 22d day of April 1816

John Randolph of Roanoke
Chairman

*This document brought together two prominent Americans. On April 22, 1816, Francis Scott Key of Georgetown gave a sworn deposition to John Randolph of Roanoke, the chairman of a Select Committee to Inquire into the Existence of an Inhuman and Illegal Traffic in Slave in the District of Columbia. The deposition (above) describes certain ugly activities that were part of the slave trade in the District of Columbia. (14A-C17.4)*

# CHAPTER 22

## RECORDS OF SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### Introduction

**22.1** The House of Representatives achieved a quorum and commenced business on Wednesday, April 1, 1789. Its first committee, a select committee assigned to prepare and report standing rules and orders for House proceedings, was appointed on April 2 and submitted its report five days later. Since that time, Congress has always relied on committees as the best means to accomplish its work in an orderly, efficient, and expeditious manner.

**22.2** The committee system has grown and evolved over the years. During the earliest Congresses, select committees, created to perform a specific function and terminated when the task was completed, performed the overwhelming majority of the committee work. The third Congress (1793-95), for example, had only three standing committees[1] but approximately 350 select committees.[2] The committee system is now firmly established in both House and Senate procedure, with the rules of each House establishing a full range of permanent standing committees and assigning jurisdiction of all legislative issues among them. Nevertheless, select committees, which have been used throughout the history of Congress to respond to unique and difficult issues, continue to be established from time to time to meet special needs.

**22.3** This chapter examines records of select committees among the Records of the United States House of Representatives, Record Group 233.[3] These records not only contain information about the individual committees to which they pertain, but, taken as a whole, they reveal the wide-ranging jurisdictions and diverse roles of select committees in the history of the House.

**22.4** The large number and wide variety of subjects addressed in the select committee records preclude the possibility of mentioning all of them in this chapter. Rather, the chapter is designed to provide a sense of the breadth of subjects and types of documents available for research in select committee records. The published preliminary inventory of RG 233 for the records from 1789 to 1946 also indicates the wide range of subjects because the inventory often segregates select committee records within each Congress by topic and assigns them separate file numbers. This is not always the case, however, and numerous additional subjects appear in the files designated "various select committees."

**22.5** Because of the marked differences in the issues confronting Congress, as well as in congressional procedure and committee recordkeeping practices, the records of 18th-century select committees bear little resemblance to their 20th-century counterparts. For this reason, the chapter is divided into four chronological sections. The first section covers records of the years from 1789 to 1847, a period of governmental formation and economic and territorial growth. The second section discusses records dating from 1847 to 1909, encompassing both the Civil War and the later era of industrial expansion and social transformation. The third section runs from 1910 to 1946, the year of the seminal Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. Finally, the fourth section discusses the select committee records dating from 1947 to 1968.

**22.6** The four sections deal with the records in two different ways. The first two sections of the chapter consider the records of select committees during the time period as a whole, while the last two sections provide separate discussion of the records of each select committee. This is a reflection of the reduced number of select committees and the marked increase in the quantity of records pertaining to each committee after 1910.

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[1] These were the House Committee of Elections, the House Committee on Claims, and the Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills. The Senate had no standing committees at the time.

[2] George B. Galloway, *Congress at the Crossroads* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., 1946, p. 88.

[3] Some records of select committees that were immdediate predecessors of House standing committees are described in other chapters of thsi *Guide.*

**22.7** The titles of some older select committees are not capitalized. This follows the guidance of the House *Journal* and reflects the fluid manner in which select committees in the early years were created, served their function, and went out of existence. Many committees were known by the date they were created or by a petition or other document that had been referred to them. In a number of instances, the *Journal* and other congressional publications do not consistently refer to an individual committee by the same title. Though such inconsistencies still appear in the twentieth century, they are less frequent.

**22.8** Some 20th-century select committees are called special committees. These, however, do not differ in any substantive way from the others.

**22.9** Beginning with records of the 68th Congress (1924-25), some select committee records have not been assigned file numbers. Unless otherwise indicated, these records are filed with the records of the last Congress shown in the tables. Whenever a file number is available, it is provided.

**22.10** For the records of some select committees, a finding aid is available. These finding aids are mentioned in the chapter and are listed in Appendix G. For guidance on other aids to research, consult Chapter 1, "An Introduction to Research in the Records of Congress," paying particular attention to the discussion of *American State Papers*, the *Congressional Serial Set*, House *Journal*, and *Congressional Record* and its predecessors. Certain records of select committees are reproduced in National Archives microfilm publications. Consult Appendix H for information on these publications.

**22.11** Finally, during each of the four time periods, select committees were created for which there are no records in the National Archives.

***Records of Select Committees, 1st-29th Congresses (1789-1847)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 8 vols. | 1793-5, 1823-27<br>1829-31, 1835-37,<br>1839-41 | 3d, 18th-19th,<br>21st, 24th,<br>26th |
| Docket Book | 1 vol. | 1835-37 | 24th |
| Petitions & Mem. | 8 ft. | 1799-1847 | 6th-29th |
| Comm. Papers | 20 ft. | 1793-1847 | 3d-29th |
| TOTAL: | 28 ft. and 9 vols. (9 in.) | | |

**22.12** From the establishment of the Federal Government in 1789 until 1847, the House of Representatives regularly created select committees to perform the full range of committee functions during the period. Many committees were created to consider a Presidential message to Congress, a private petition or memorial, or some other communication presented to the House. The creation of other committees reflected a decision by the House that a certain issue required legislation, and a select committee was established to draft it. Still other select committees were created to conduct specific investigations.

**22.13** By modern standards, the records of the committees are scanty. This is no doubt due in part to the passage of time and periods of relative neglect, but perhaps more importantly it is a reflection of a simpler age, without copying machines or professional committee staffs. **Minute books** and **docket books** are available for certain select committees; these volumes generally provide rather cursory information about the committee activities. Most records of select committees from 1789 to 1847 are contained in two series: **Petitions and memorials,** with resolutions of State legislatures, and **committee reports and papers**. While scores of select committees are represented in the records, a single item, most often a petition referred to the committee or the committee report, is frequently the only document for a particular committee. For the 10th Congress, for example, both series contain records of approximately 40 select committees, even though the series of petitions and memorials amounts to only 6 inches and the committee reports and papers series for that Congress comprise 3 inches of material.

**22.14** Although the title of each record series indicates the predominant type of document contained in it, both series contain a wide variety of document types. Petitions and memorials were sometimes accompanied by various papers provided either to lend support to the case or to provide additional information. The petition from seaman Andrew Montgomery asking Congress to grant him American citizenship, for example, was accompanied by a personal narrative recounting his life and service after the ship on which he was serving was captured by Americans in the Irish Channel in June 1777. Supplementing the petition are a 1786 certificate in French from the U.S. vice-consul at Marseille that refers to Montgomery as a U.S. citizen and other documents reflecting various aspects of his career (6A-F4.3). Documents accompanying the petition of the mayor and aldermen of Natchez requesting a commons area and two lots in the city include a plan of the city and an extract of minutes of the city council (8A-F5.5). An 1806 letter from William Tatham offering to sell his extensive collection of military topographical surveys, manuscript maps, books, models, and instruments is accompanied by a general schedule of the collection, as well as an outline of the benefits that Tatham believed the Government would derive from the establishment of a "Department of Works and Public Economy" (9A-F7.2). A later file concerning Tatham consists of memorials, copies of passports and letters of recommendation and commendation, reports from the Secretary of War and others, a 1775 letter to Tatham from his wealthy British aunt expressing displeasure with his decision to side with the rebellious Americans, and a list of the Members of Congress whom Tatham knew (14A-f16.7).

**22.15** In addition to committee reports, the series of committee papers often includes letters, lists, reports, and other documents received from officials in executive departments and other persons in response to committee inquiries. Bills and drafts of bills, resolutions establishing committees, and orders referring petitions and other communications to committees also may be found among committee papers. The committee reports themselves are usually the original manuscripts, often bearing pencil marks made by the printer. Some committee reports provide comprehensive documentation of the committee's activities, incorporating not only the final summation of the committee but also committee minutes, documents received relating to the committee's work, and transcripts of hearings or written interrogatories.[4]

**22.16** For the earliest Congresses, many documents among the committee papers series bear markings that indicate they probably are copies made at the time of preparation of the *American State Papers.*[5] One example is the earliest dated committee report, a manuscript copy of the July 9, 1789, report of the committee appointed on April 29 "to prepare and report an estimate of the supplies requisite for the present year, and of the nett produce of the impost as agreed to by the House" (1A-C1).

**22.17** Taken as a whole, the select committee records pertain to a broad spectrum of the subjects considered by the House prior to 1848. Included are records concerning westward expansion, economic development, the controversy over slavery, establishment of new governmental structures, and myriad other topics.

**22.18** Issues relating to westward expansion and internal development frequently commanded the attention of Congress during the early 19th century. Among select committee records are papers regarding compensation to Zebulon Pike and his companions for exploration services, including copies of orders, letters from Pike, and a list of participants in the 1806-7 expedition (11A-C9.2). Frontier hostilities are the subject of such documents as the copy of resolves adopted by a meeting at Vincennes, Indiana Territory, on July 31, 1811, expressing concern over the growing Indian confederation under the Prophet and his brother Tecumseh and calling upon the Government to act to ensure the security of the settlers (12A-C11.4). Also among the records is a list of losses sustained by residents of the Mississippi Territory, most of which were due to Indian depredations, during the War of 1812 (14A-F16.7).

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[4] Beginning in 1817 (15th Cong.), all committee reports were published in the *Congressional Serial Set.* Before 1817, some reports were printed in either the *House Journal* or *American State Papers.* See Chapter 1 for more information on these publications.

[5] For information on the role of the Clerk of the House in the publications of *American State Papers,* see Chapter 23.

land grants, usually to support such educational institutions as Jefferson Academy at Vincennes, Jefferson College in Mississippi Territory, and Transylvania College in Kentucky (7A-F4.2, 21A-D25.20).

**22.20** Territorial government figures in many of the records. Petitions from inhabitants of the territories, as well as communications from territorial governors or legislatures, involved issues relating to territorial government and territorial boundaries (8A-F5.5, 6A-F4.3, 9A-C5). For example, various petitions from the Territory of Indiana, as well as a memorial and joint resolutions of the Indiana Territorial Legislature, objected to the freehold requirement for suffrage in the territory and called for the right of suffrage to extend to all free males, 25 and older, who had done military service and who paid taxes (11A-F10.2).

**22.21** There are reports by select committees on the admission of Mississippi Territory (11A-C9.4, 14A-C17.5) and Indiana Territory (12A-C11.4, 14A-C17.5), and also an 1818 print of the constitution of Illinois drafted by its constitutional convention (15A-D16.4). Records relating to the admission of Maine include the petition submitted by the constitutional convention, as well as a report of the Secretary of Massachusetts regarding election returns on the question of the separation of Maine from Massachusetts (16A-G21.2).

**22.22** Select committees formed to consider various plans for internal improvements produced a variety of records. A number of these relate to canals, such as the printed memorial of the Kentucky General Assembly asking that a canal around the rapids of the Ohio be built on the Kentucky side. Accompanying the memorial are a print of "Proceedings of the Managers of the Ohio Canal Company at Louisville, on Wednesday, 11 September 1805" and a colored sketch and notes reflecting a survey of the location by J. Brooks (9A-F7.2). An 1811 petition regarding a canal between the Great Lakes and the Hudson River includes the signatures of Gouverneur Morris, DeWitt Clinton, Robert R. Livingston, and Robert Fulton (12A-F11.3). A petition from residents of Brooke County, VA, asked for a change in the planned route of a road to be built by the Government from the Potomac to the Ohio Rivers (10A-f9.5). Various records dating from 1801 to 1809 concern proposals for bridges or other improvements to the Potomac in the vicinity of the District of Columbia (6A-F4.3, 7A-F4.2, 10A-F9.3). There are also petitions asking for establishment of post roads between certain towns.[6] (6A-F4.1, 8A-F5.2)

**22.23** Indications of the developments in commerce and manufacturing also appear in select committee records. Several such committees, for example, considered issues relating to the recurring controversy over a national bank. Memorials from stockholders of the first Bank of the United States asking for a renewal of the bank's charter, which was due to expire on March 4, 1811, and a committee report on the topic, are among the files from the years 1808 to 1811 (11A-C9.4, 11A-F10.4). The attempt to recharter the bank failed, but the issue did not die. For the year 1815, there are printed memorials from Philadelphia and a manuscript memorial from Maine asking for reestablishment of a national bank (14A-F16.3). The second Bank of the United States was chartered for a 20-year period beginning in April 1816. President Andrew Jackson was opposed to the Bank, and its recharter became the principal issue of the Presidential campaign of 1832. During the recharter battle in Congress involving heated debate and multiple roll calls, two select committees were established. Records of the committee appointed on March 15, 1832, "to investigate the affairs of the Bank of the United States" consist of the committee's majority and minority reports, as well as a separate report by John Quincy Adams written in his own hand. There are also printed and manuscript copies of the committee's questions to certain bank officials, along with their answers (22A-D26.1). Committee minutes and minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the United States are among the records of the later committee appointed April 4, 1834, to inspect the books and examine into the proceedings of the Bank of the United States (23A-D23.1).

**22.24** Congress did not usually become involved in decisions to grant patents. Occasionally, however, inventors asked Congress to grant an extension of a patent, to legislate in a patent controversy, or to confer some other favor. Some select committee records reflect this activity. There is, for example, an 1822 petition of James Bennett of Philadelphia asking for exclusive rights for 40 years to the use of his flying machine in the U.S. atmosphere. Filed with it is a dissenting letter with supporting materials from

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[6] In creating post roads, the Government did not undertake the building of roads but rather designated routes along which post offices would be established.

David B. Lee, claiming that he had invented the flying machine first (17A-F18.1). In an 1812 petition for renewal of the patent on the cotton gin, Eli Whitney recounted the circumstances that led him to work on the gin and reviewed events that had transpired since the invention (12A-F11.2). There is a petition from 1842 regarding international copyright issues that is signed by Washington Irving, James Renwick, W.C. Bryant, and others (27A-G26.4). Records of Congresses from 1829 to 1843 relate to inventions designed to prevent steamboat explosions (21A-G22.1, 27A-G26.5). These include a list of all steamboat accidents from 1830 to 1840, noting where each accident occurred, the number of persons killed, and the cause of the accident (26A-D30.6).

**22.25** Protection of commercial shipping is the subject of certain select committee records of the period from 1793 to 1813, mostly about problems with piracy along the Barbary Coast (3A-C3.1, 8A-C4.1, 10A-C7.1, 11A-F10.4).

**22.26** The slavery issue concerned several select committees. Some records focus on the slave trade, such as the petition from "Absalom Jones and others — people of color and freemen of Philadelphia" complaining, in part, that the new fugitive slave law was resulting in the apprehension of freemen. The petition includes a section that expresses the hope for the complete elimination of slavery, stating: "We do not ask for the immediate emancipation of all . . . ; yet humbly desire you may exert every means in your power to undo the heavy burdens, and prepare the way for the oppressed to go free, that every yoke may be broken" (6A-F4.2). The petition caused controversy when it was presented to Congress on January 2, 1800, by Robert Wain of Pennsylvania. Because of the section calling for the end of slavery, only those parts of the petition that related to U.S. laws regarding either fugitive slaves or the slave trade from the United States to foreign places were referred to the committee. In addition, by a vote of 85 to 1,[7] the resolution of referral was amended to state that "such part of the said petition, which invite Congress to legislate upon subjects from which the general government is precluded by the Constitution have a tendency to create disquiet and jealousy, and ought therefore to receive no encouragement or countenance from this House."

**22.27** Additional select committees related to the slave trade. Among the records of the 14th Congress (1815-17) are documents of a committee established to "inquire into the existence of an inhuman and illegal traffic in slaves . . . in the District of Columbia." The documents focus on charges that certain freemen had been kidnapped under the false pretext that they were runaway slaves and include a deposition of Francis Scott Key and a copy of a Baltimore grand jury presentment (14A-C17.4). Petitions and memorials relating to this committee include a number of memorials, most of which were sent by Friends or Quakers, deploring American involvement in the slave trade, as well as a January 1817 letter from Friends Edward Stabler and John Janney indicating that they were transmitting various documents "agreeably to the suggestions of the Chairmen of the Committees of Congress" (14A-F16.6).

**22.28** Other committee records address the question of slavery in the territories. A memorial from the American Convention for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, dated January 29, 1804, argued against importing slaves into the Louisiana Territory (8A-F5.5). A convention of citizens from Indiana Territory, on the other hand, asked Congress for a ten-year suspension of the sixth article of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 in order to permit the introduction of slaves born within the United States. A committee report of February 14, 1806, recommended such a suspension (9A-C5).

**22.29** Certain memorials of 1817 and 1818 called for the African colonization of freemen, and in 1827 and 1828 printed petitions coordinated by the American Colonization Society sought Congressional funding for such a scheme. The funding, however, was strongly opposed by the Georgia legislature when, in December 1827, it adopted and sent to Congress resolutions declaring that it would be unconstitutional for Congress to take such action (15A-G17.1, 20A-G22.1). In December 1843, the House established a select committee to consider resolutions of the Massachusetts legislature calling for Federal representation and taxation based solely on the number of free persons in each State, thus repealing the ⅗ compromise of the Constitution. Among the documents from this committee are the Massachusetts resolutions and a number of similar memorials, as well as the majority and minority reports of the committee and its minutes (28A-G26.1, 28A-D31.1).

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[7] Only George Thatcher of Massachusetts voted against the amendment to the resolution.

**22.30** Congress has often used select committees to investigate particular problems. The House itself was sometimes referred to during these early years as "the grand inquest of the nation," and this role is reflected in the records. The earliest record of an investigative committee is the minute book of the committee to examine the Treasury Department. It covers the period from February 24 to May 22, 1794, and includes transcriptions of correspondence, summary fiscal information, and material submitted to the committee. On the whole, the records of investigating committees tend to be more substantial than those of other types of select committees of the period, being more likely to contain minutes, correspondence, and documents submitted to the committee in the course of the investigation. The committees usually posed questions to persons knowledgeable about the subject of the investigation, either in hearings, by means of commissioners appointed to personally question the parties involved, or by means of written "interrogatories." In some cases, the resulting transcripts or copies of interrogatories and written replies are among the records.

**22.31** There are records of two select committees established in the wake of the burning of Washington, D.C., in August 1814. One committee conducted an inquiry into the circumstances leading to the destruction of House documents by the British, while the other inquired more generally into the reasons for the success of the British and the amount of property destroyed. (13A-D15.2, 13A-D15.3)

**22.32** There are records of the select investigating committee requested by Vice President John C. Calhoun in response to allegations appearing in the press that as Secretary of War he had profited from a War Department contract to provide stone for the construction of fortifications at the Rip Rap Shoals and Old Point Comfort in Hampton Roads, VA. The records include correspondence relating to the work of the committee, such as the letter from Calhoun requesting the investigation, as well as transcripts of hearings, exhibits, depositions, the committee report, subpoenas, and other documents. A volume of committee minutes is also available (19A-D23.9).

**22.33** Some records pertain to trials conducted in the House. The trial of Colonel John Anderson for contempt of the House on a charge that he had attempted to bribe a Member is documented by a committee report covering the mode of proceeding, questions and answers, narrative, apology, and explanation by Anderson (15A-D16.4).

**22.34** Samuel Houston was a central figure in the activities of two select committees during the 22d Congress (1831-1833) that stemmed from allegations of irregularities in the 1830 award to Houston of a War Department contract to supply food for emigrating Indians. In 1832, William Stanbery of Ohio referred to the charges in a speech to the House. Two weeks later, Houston assaulted Stanberry on the streets of Washington. A select committee on privileges was established on April 17, 1832, to report a mode of proceeding in the trial of Houston before the House for violation of the privileges of the House. Its report was issued that same day and is among the records (22A-D26.13). Houston was found guilty of contempt and reprimanded at the bar of the House. Immediately after the reprimand, Stanbery proposed the establishment of a select committee to investigate the allegations concerning the contract. Records of that committee include an unbound journal containing committee minutes, copies of committee correspondence, and transcripts of questions in the case. There are also subpoenas (including one for Houston) and copies of the bids received for the contract (22A-D26.2).

**22.35** Assaults, fights, or threats of violence are the subject of other select committee records during this period (15A-D16.4, 20A-D25.3, 23A-D23.1, 26A-D30.2). For example, there are records of the 1837 trial of Reuben M. Whitney on charges of contempt for refusing the summons of the select committee to inquire into the administration of the executive departments. He refused on the grounds that, during his testimony before the select committee on the employment of an agent by deposit banks, his life had been threatened (24A-D24.1).

**22.36** Committee reports, replies from executive departments, petitions, and other documents are available among records of certain select committees that dealt with various governmental issues, such as the 1810 committee on the condition of the archives (11A-C9.4), the 1814 committees that considered rebuilding Washington or changing the seat of government following the British attack (13A-D15.4), and the committees on retrenchment formed for the purpose of considering ways to reduce governmental expenses (20A-D25.2, 27A-D25.7, 28A-D31.1, 28A-

G26.1). Among records directly relating to certain governmental operations is a bound volume containing the original 1837 report of the select committee on the West Point Academy, including lists with information about cadets and officers, 1802-36.

**22.37** Pensions or private claims sometimes came under the jurisdiction of select committees. Governmental action was sometimes sought on behalf of a class of persons, such as disabled veterans of the American Revolution (10A-F9.4) or witnesses who had testified at the trial of Aaron Burr (10A-C7.1, 12A-F11.4), but more often the claimant was an individual. Among the individuals whose claims were considered by select committees before 1847 are Daniel Boone (12A-C11.4), Andrew Jackson (15A-G17.3), Arthur St. Clair (15A-G17.3), and James Monroe (18A-C20.4, 19A-D23.1, 20A-D25.1, 21A-G22.3).

**22.38** Select committees considered a myriad of other subjects, including the Alien and Sedition Acts and their effects (6A-F4.3, 7A-F3.1, 16A-D26.4), education of deaf and dumb persons (15A-D16.4, 18A-F20.3, 20A-G22.2, 21A-D25.4), and proposed constitutional amendments (8A-C4.1, 18A-C20.6, 23A—D23.1, 24A-D24.1, 27A-D25.1). A few bound volumes among the records include a minute book that contains minutes of meetings of the joint committee on the Smithsonian Bequest (January 26 to February 18, 1839), as well as minutes for the periods when only a House select committee existed to deal with the matter (January 4-8, 1839, and January 15, 1840, to April 6, 1842). Entries in the volume were made by John Quincy Adams.

***Records of Select Committees, 30th-60th Congresses (1847-1909)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Minute Books | 36 vols. | 1867-73, 1875-93<br>1897-99, 1901-3,<br>1907-9 | 40th-42d, 44th-52d,<br>55th, 57th, 60th |
| Docket Books | 33 vols. | 1869-85, 1887-93 | 41st-48th, 50th-52d |
| Petitions & Mem. | 45 ft. | 1847-49, 1853-93<br>1897-1901D30th,<br>33d-52d<br>55th-56th | |
| Comm. Papers | 39 ft. | 1847-93, 1895-1905 | 30th-52d, 54th-58th |
| TOTAL: | 84 ft. and 69 vols. (6 ft.) | | |

**22.39** During the period from 1847 to 1909, the U.S. Congress legislated for a Nation undergoing transformation. A bloody Civil War brought cataclysmic changes in the social, economic, and political life of the country. Territorial expansion and economic development also contributed to the growing complexity of the issues facing Congress. The House of Representatives relied on select committees to deal with many of the problems brought on by these changing conditions.

**22.40** **Minute books** of the period, all of which postdate 1867, exist for only a small percentage of the select committees. The minutes themselves tend to be rather cursory, though there are exceptions. **Docket books**, which catalog the bills, resolutions, petitions, or other documents referred to a committee, appear with approximately the same frequency as minute books. **Petitions and memorials**, with resolutions of State legislatures are filed in a separate series. Some of these documents offer insight into the public's perspective on the great issues of the day, while others reveal individual or local efforts to influence Congress on their own behalf. **Committee papers**[8] relating to select committees from 1847 to 1909 contain a wide variety of document types, with committee reports being the type most frequently encountered. Also among the committee papers are resolutions, bills, amendments, committee minutes, affidavits, and transcripts of hearings, as well as correspondence with Members of Congress, Federal agencies, and the public.

**22.41** The Civil War and issues relating to it placed special demands on Congress, as the Federal

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[8] The title of this series is **committee reports and papers** for records dating before 1862.

Government struggled to survive. During the prewar, wartime, and postwar periods, the House of Representatives repeatedly relied on select committees to consider and report on developing issues. Among the records from the volatile period preceding the war, for example, are the manuscript majority and minority reports of a select committee to look into a fracas between two Members of Congress, Amos Granger of New York and Fayette McMullin of Virginia, that took place on a bus in the District of Columbia on August 18, 1856. The committee report includes the committee journal and transcripts of hearings, at which each of the parties involved in the scuffle were allowed to interrogate witnesses (34A-D24.1).

**22.42** The records of two select committees established in response to Presidential messages received during the months between the election and inauguration of Abraham Lincoln document congressional attempts to reach an agreement that would avert the impending war. In response to the section of President James Buchanan's annual message that related to "the present perilous condition of the country," the so-called Committee of Thirty-three was created on December 4, 1860, and continued until January 14, 1861, when it reported to the House. Another select committee was created in response to the special message from President Buchanan of January 9, 1861, commenting on the situation in South Carolina, where a special convention had voted unanimously for secession and Federal forts, arsenals, and magazines had been seized. Among the records of the two committees are printed bills and resolutions with handwritten revisions, proposed amendments, and newspaper clippings. There are also petitions and memorials, both manuscript and printed; most seek a compromise to avert civil war, but some are in favor of war. Many express support for the Crittenden Compromise, while a few call for a national convention in order to reach a settlement. Memorials of public meetings in Caldwell County and Asheville, NC, favored secession "if necessary," while another memorial from North Carolina stressed that secession should be avoided and suggested various proposals to avert a crisis. A petition from New Jersey mechanics called for a general election to decide whether to accept a compromise (36A-D26.2, 36A-G23, 36A-G25).

**22.43** As the war got underway, enormous expenditures for supplies required by the military inevitably led to reports of abuses of the procurement system and to calls in Congress for an investigation into the situation. On July 8, 1861, the Select Committee on Government Contracts was created. Chaired by Charles Van Wyck of New York, the committee conducted inquiries in 12 cities, hearing from hundreds of witnesses on a wide variety of governmental contracts. Records include House resolutions regarding the committee, committee requests for papers from Federal agencies, notes regarding potential witnesses, transcripts of hearings, correspondence of members of the committee, and copies of governmental contracts and related materials provided by government departments. The correspondence includes letters from citizens offering information on suspected fraudulent activities, as well as letters from persons involved in governmental contracts (37A-E21.1).

**22.44** The advocacy of prudent military measures and promotion of local development combined in the petitions and memorials that constitute the records of the select committees created to consider the establishment of a national armory west of the Allegheny mountains and the Select Committee on Defense of the Great Lakes and Rivers. Among the localities touted for the armory were Chicago and Rock Island, IL; Toledo and Cincinnati, OH; and Pittsburgh, Johnstown, and Danville, PA (37A-G21.1, 38A-G25.2). Fortifying the Straits of Mackinac and the various harbors in the Great Lakes region, the establishment of a naval depot, and construction of a canal around Niagara Falls are among other proposals relating to the defense of the northern lakes (37A-G21.3).

**22.45.** Some select committees considered policies regarding slaves. On April 7, 1862, for example, the House authorized a select committee to consider the feasibility and desirability of proposals for gradual emancipation in Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. Petitions and memorials referred to the committee are among the records. Most are printed, and many contain general statements favoring abolition. A number of memorials from Maryland called for compensated emancipation in the States that remained loyal to the Union. One petition from free blacks in the District of Columbia asked for an area to be set aside for blacks in "Central America" (37A-G21.4). Another select committee was appointed during the 38th Congress, on December 14, 1863, to consider issues relating to emancipation. Committee minutes, notes, a copy of a bill to establish a Bureau of Emancipation, and various petitions and memorials are among the records of this committee (38A-E23.2, 38A-G25.1).

**22.46** The debate over Reconstruction dominated American politics in the years following the Civil War. The problems facing the Nation as it struggled to recover are reflected in the records of several select committees that dealt with conditions in the defeated Southern States and with the formulation of policy to restore the South to the Union.

**22.47** The most important of these was the Select Committee on Reconstruction, created on July 3, 1867, as successor to the Joint Committee on Reconstruction.[9] Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania served as chairman until his death in 1868, when he was succeeded in that position by George Boutwell and subsequently Benjamin Butler, both of Massachusetts. The committee investigated conditions in the South, including "the Ku Klux outrages" and election irregularities. The House also referred to this committee the applications for removal of political disabilities imposed by section 3 of the 14th Amendment. That section barred from civil or military office any person who had violated their official oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution by supporting the Confederacy; the section included a proviso that, by a two-thirds vote of each House, Congress could remove the disability. Records of the committee are substantial (30 ft.) and consist mostly of petitions in the form of letters from individuals praying for the removal of political disabilities imposed upon them and related documents supporting or opposing specific removals. An example of such a related document is the letter from General U.S. Grant in support of the removal of the political disabilities of former Confederate General James Longstreet. Other records include letters from private individuals and from civil and military officials that provide information, offer opinions, and suggest courses of action in regard to the former Confederate States. Included also are two July 19, 1867, veto messages from President Andrew Johnson regarding Reconstruction legislation that were overridden. A rolled petition signed by 3,400 citizens of Rhode Island that is among the records was aimed at changing suffrage requirements imposed by that State's constitution and called for enforcement of the 14th and 15th Amendments there (40A-F28.4, 40A-H21, 41A-F28.2, 41A-H18). Seven volumes from the committee are available, including lists, indexes, dockets, and a minute book covering the period from March 1869 to February 1871. A finding aid to most of the records of the committee is available and includes lists of folder titles.

**22.48** A grim example of conditions in the postwar South occurred in October 1865, when three U.S. Army soldiers were murdered in South Carolina. Arrests were made and subsequently a military commission condemned the accused to death. After the condemned were transferred to another prison and released on a writ of habeas corpus, the House created the Select Committee on the Murder of Union Soldiers in South Carolina to investigate the entire matter. Records of the committee include transcripts of testimony, official copies of the trial transcript, copies of papers and correspondence of the War Department, and copies of petitions concerning the accused that had been sent to the President (39A-F28.2).

**22.49** Civil War veterans constituted one of the most important political constituencies in the postwar period, and occasionally select committees were created to deal with issues of particular importance to them. The records include transcripts of public hearings held by the Select Committee on Soldiers' and Sailors' Bounties in 1867 (40A-F28.3). Records of the 1867-68 Select Committee on Fraud in the Pay Department pertain to an investigation of allegations that black veterans were being defrauded of bounties. Included are affidavits relating to claims, requests for materials, communications between the committee and executive departments, and various documents provided to the committee by governmental agencies (40A-F28.1). The Select Committee on the Payment of Pensions, Bounty, and Back Pay, created on January 12, 1880, considered the cases of 539 dissatisfied veterans. Records of the committee consist in large part of letters written to the committee by disappointed claimants, occasionally accompanied by letters from the Pension Office of the Department of Interior or by affidavits in support of the claims. There are also other letters and petitions received by the committee in support of sundry specific legislative proposals, as well as two volumes of letter press copies of outgoing letters, including indexes by name of addressee. Various communications and papers from Federal agencies are among the records, such as tables from the Commissioner of Pensions listing the claimants from Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin whose claims were rejected between August and December 1884 (46A-F41.1-2, 46A-H28.1, 47A-F33.1, 47A-H25.1-5, 48A-F43.1, 48A-H34.1-10).

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[9] For information on the joint committee and its records, as well as records of the House select committee that are filed with the joint committee's records, see Chapter 23.

**22.50** Postwar politics were characterized by bitter partisanship that at times sparked controversies that led to the establishment of select committees. In February 1867, while the House Committee on the Judiciary considered a resolution of impeachment of President Andrew Johnson, rumors spread through Washington that certain Members of Congress had met privately with Johnson to strike a bargain whereby they would vote against any report unfavorable to the President in exchange for Presidential support on certain matters. In reaction, the House established a Select Committee on Alleged Private Meetings of Members of the House with a View to a Corrupt Bargain with the President. Records of the committee consist of copies of House resolutions to establish the committee, transcripts of committee testimony, and newspaper clippings about the alleged bargaining (39A-F28.1).

**22.51** Several select committees were appointed to consider various aspects of the controversial 1876 Presidential election between Samuel J. Tilden of New York and Rutherford B. Hayes of Ohio, which led to the end of the Reconstruction era. Records of the Select Committee on the Privileges, Powers, and Duties of the House of Representatives in Counting the Electoral Votes for President and Vice President of the United States contain materials pertaining to the contested votes in six States and document the work of the electoral commission set up by Congress to resolve the controversy, including the formal objections from Senators and Representatives to the counting of the votes of specific electors and the reports of the electoral commission. There are also a number of petitions and memorials, some of which counsel fairness and impartiality while others take a clear position on the candidates. A volume of committee minutes covers the period from January 6 to March 2, 1877. (44A-F39.2, 44A-H21.2)

**22.52** Another select committee that concerned the 1876 election was the Select Committee on Alleged Frauds in the Late Presidential Election, established on October 2, 1877. Records include manuscripts of the proceedings of the electoral commission and the joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress to count the electoral votes, printed Congressional documents, an "extra" edition of the *New York Tribune*, and committee exhibits, correspondence, affidavits, and interrogatories. There is a minute book for the period from May 22, 1878, to March 3, 1879 (45A-F37.1).

**22.53** The records of many select committees of the period have nothing to do with the Civil War and related issues. Among these are the records of various investigative committees established during the 31st to the 60th Congresses (1849-1909). Most relate to investigations of governmental agencies or officials, and some pertain to significant scandals in American history. Included are the 1873 investigation to determine whether prominent politicians had accepted stock in the Credit Mobilier company used by officials of the Union Pacific Railroad to siphon off profits from construction of the railroad (42A-F31.1), and the 1876 inquiry into the St. Louis Whiskey Ring that was devised to defraud the Government of the internal revenue tax (44A-F39.7). The records of investigative committees generally consist of reports, depositions, correspondence, transcripts of testimony, and exhibits. There may also be papers collected during the course of investigations. Among the records of the Select Committee on Alleged Abuses of the Franking Privilege, for example, are political materials, such as the "Garfield and Arthur Campaign Song Book, 1880" and "Maxims of James Abram Garfield," that had been mailed in franked envelopes (46A-F39.1). Committee minutes are available for some of the investigative committees. The combined minute and docket book of the 1877-79 Select Committee on Reform in the Civil Service includes minutes of the subcommittee to examine and audit claims against the House of Representatives arising from charges that John W. Polk, Doorkeeper of the House, had employed 63 more persons than authorized for that office (45A-F37.4).

**22.54** Records exist for a number of select committees concerning social issues of the day. Some of these considered immigration policy, with the earliest created in response to a section of President Lincoln's annual message of 1863 concerning encouragement of European immigration (38A-E23.3). Certain select committees from 1887-93 focused on the issue of limiting immigration, particularly from China. Records of these committees consist mainly of petitions favoring limitations, but they also include copies of bills, depositions, communications from governmental agencies, and committee minutes (50A-H33.1, 51A-F46.1-3, 51A-H27.1-3, 52A-F50.1-3, 52A-H28.1-4).

**22.55** Concern over epidemics of contagious diseases attracted the attention of select committees of Congress in the years 1877-85. The records of these committees include printed bills and resolutions, a manuscript report from a committee-appointed board of experts, letters and memorials received from health associations and others, and committee minutes. Among the topics considered were a national quarantine policy and the role of the National Board of Health. The minute book of the 1879-81 Select Committee on the Origin, Introduction, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases also contains minutes of a joint session of both House and Senate committees on epidemics and of a joint House-Senate subcommittee appointed to visit Memphis and other places to study causes and prevention of yellow fever and cholera (45A-F37.3, 46A-F38.1, 46A-H26.1, 48A-F45.1, 48A-H35.1).

**22.56** From 1879 to 1893, the House maintained a Select Committee on Alcoholic Liquor Traffic. Records consist mostly of petitions and memorials from religious groups or temperance associations, such as the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and the Sons of Temperance. Many called for the appointment of a commission to study the alcoholic liquor traffic and its relation to public revenue and taxation, crime, pauperism, morals, and other matters. Other memorials proposed legislative restrictions on alcoholic beverages. There are also bills and resolutions, and docket and minute books (46A-H25.1-3, 47A-F31.1-2, 47A-H23.1, 48A-F37.1-2, 48A-H31.1-2, 50A-H31.1, 51A-F43.1-3, 51A-H24.1-7, 52A-F46.1-2, 52A-H25.1-3).

**22.57** Various records, mainly petitions and memorials, pertain to committees dealing with matters of commerce or economics, such as the 1854 Select Committee on the Guano Trade (33A-D21.5, 33A-G27.1), the Civil War era Select Committee on a Bankrupt Law (37A-G21.2), and several committees created during the 1870's and 1880's to consider issues relating to American shipping (41A-F28.3, 41A-H16.1, 48A-F38.1, 48A-H32.1, 49A-H26.1-3). Records of the Select Committee on the Interoceanic Ship Canal, established on December 16, 1879, include letters received from private citizens and Federal agencies, bills and resolutions referred to the committee, private and governmental publications regarding proposals for canals, transcripts of hearings, memorials, a minute book, and a docket volume. There is a large foldout map and topographical profile of a canal route across Nicaragua from the year 1852 and sketches of a ship railway that were prepared by William F. Channing in 1859 and 1865 (46A-F40.1-3, 46A-H27.1). There are also records of select committees regarding a railroad to the Pacific (34A-D24.4, 34A-G23.1, 36A-D26.3, 36A-G24.1, 39A-H26.3), the establishment of postal telegraph lines (41A-F28.1), and the irrigation of arid lands (51A-H29).

**22.58** Records exist for a number of select committees dealing with specific governmental functions. Petitions and memorials, letters and papers received, maps, charts, and minute and docket volumes dating from 1869 to 1903 document some of the numerous select committees regarding the census (41A-H16.1, 41A-F28.4, 47A-F32.1-3, 47A-H24.1, 551A-f45.1-3, 51A-H26.1-4). During the 52d Congress (1891-93), the Select Committee on the Eleventh Census investigated the Census Bureau, and the records include minutes, affidavits, correspondence, statements of witnesses, and various copies of newspapers or clippings. An October 1891 article from the *New York Herald* that is among the records proclaims "Speed Everything Accuracy Nothing" as it reports on the use of the Hollerith machine, considered the first computer used by the U.S. Government, to transcribe the census results (52A-F49.3). Among records of another select committee on the census are minutes of the Republican Caucus in February 1902 (57A-F39.1).

**22.59** The records of various select committees, dating from 1853 to 1893, concern civilian employees of the Federal Government. These concern such matters as the superintendence of civil works by military officers (33A-D21.11), apportionment of governmental positions among residents of the various States (35A-D23.3), reorganization and reform of the civil service (42A-F31.2, 42A-H16.1, 45A-F37.4, 46A-H29.1, 51A-F49.1-3, 52A-F52.1-3), and veterans preference in hiring (51A-H30.1, 52A-H29.1). Bills, resolutions, reports, petitions and memorials, correspondence, minutes, and dockets are included.

**22.60** Miscellaneous other subjects considered by select committees from 1847 and 1909 are documented among the records. From the period before the Civil War, for example, there are protests against European taxation of American tobacco products (30A-

D26.7, 36A-D26.6), while there are numerous turn-of-the-century protests against allowing polygamist Brigham Roberts to take a seat in the House (55A-H31.1, 56A-H30.1). The foundation of the Capitol extension (32A-D23.1), the Washington Monument (33A-D21.12, 42A-F31.4), and the World's Columbian Exposition of 1892 (51A-F50, 51A-H31, 52A-F47) are among notable undertakings of the era mentioned in the records.

## Records of Select Committees, 61st-79th Congresses (1910-1946)

**22.61** The number of standing committees, many of which had evolved from select committees, peaked during the early years of the 20th century. The House continued to establish select committees during the period from 1910 to 1946; both individually and as a group, however, their jurisdiction was more restricted than it had been during the 19th century. Most commonly, the select committees were authorized to consider narrow topics that had caught the public's interest. The limited scope and popular appeal did not mean the issues raised were necessarily frivolous or insignificant. Some reflected important societal changes, the expansion of U.S. commercial and financial activity, and the impact of World War II.

**22.62** The appointment of a select committee has never signaled an intention on the part of the House to pass legislation upon a particular topic, and this has been especially true in the 20th century. The main thrust of many select committees has been investigative rather than legislative.

**22.63** Twentieth century advancements in technology and increasing governmental and economic complexity combined to account for a marked increase in the volume of records generated by individual committees. Because of the decreased numbers of select committees and the greater volume of records per committee, the records of each select or special committee of this period are described here separately, in order of the date of establishment of the committee. There are two exceptions. The records relating to the various committees on campaign expenditures, though filed as separate units and spanning the period from 1928 to 1964, are described collectively at the end of the next section. In addition, no description is provided for select committees whose records consist solely of copies of the committee publications.

### *Select Committee To Investigate Conditions Interfering with Interstate Commerce between the States of Illinois and Missouri (1917-18)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 2 ft. | 1917-18 | 65th |

**22.64** East St. Louis, IL, a heavily industrialized city across the Mississippi River from St. Louis, MO, was the scene of race riots stemming from labor unrest and characterized by indiscriminate attacks on blacks during the summer of 1917. According to official reports, 9 whites and at least 39 blacks were killed, hundreds were wounded, and more than 300 buildings and 44 railroad freight cars were destroyed in the riots. The Illinois National Guard was called in to assist the East St. Louis Police Department, but firsthand accounts indicated that certain members of the law enforcement groups participated in, rather than suppressed, the riots.

**22.65** Agencies and citizens of East St. Louis asked the Federal Government to investigate the circumstances surrounding the riots. In response, the House established the select committee on September 11, 1917, with Ben Johnson of Kentucky as chairman (65A-F30.1). The committee collected information from a wide variety of sources and interviewed a broad range of witnesses before its report was presented to the House on July 6, 1918 (H. Doc 1231, 65th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 7444).

**22.66** Records of the committee include unpublished hearings, exhibits, photographs, transcripts of the June 1917 hearings held by the Labor Committee of the Illinois State Council of Defense to investigate the cause of the migration of Southern blacks to East St. Louis, labor bulletins, a grand jury report, and a petition from the citizens of East St. Louis demanding improvements in law enforcement. There is a draft of the committee report, as well as financial and other administrative records of the committee.[10]

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[10] The National Archives has produced a microfilm publication of these records. For information, see Appendix H

### *Special Committee on Water Power (1918-21)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 4 in. | 1918-21 | 65th-66th |

**22.67** The Special Committee on Water Power was established on January 11, 1918, and assigned jurisdiction over all bills and resolutions involving development or utilization of water power within the United States. For several years previously, Congress had failed in its attempts to pass legislation authorizing the building of dams on navigable streams. In consequence, the Secretaries of War, Interior, and Agriculture, all of whom had authority over some aspect of the issue, cooperated in drafting a water power bill. In the House, the jurisdiction was split: the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce had jurisdiction over bills regarding construction of bridges and dams over navigable waters within the States, the Committee on Public Lands had jurisdiction over dams on public lands, and the Agriculture Committee had jurisdiction over those on forest reserves. To prevent the Secretaries' bill from being fragmented among committees, the special committee was created, drawing its members from the three standing committees. The committee was renewed in the 66th Congress (1919-21).

**22.68** Records of the committee (65A-F31, 66A-D33, 66A-H23.2) include petitions and memorials from clubs and individuals protesting a water power bill that was passed in 1920 and supporting H.R. 14469 (66th Cong.) to exclude the national parks and monuments from the operation of the act. Four bill files relating to committee activities consist of bills, reports, memorandums, letters from Federal agencies, and a resolution of the Montana Legislative Assembly. Minutes of the committee appear in two bound volumes; there is also a docket book.

### *Select Committee to Investigate Contracts and Expenditures Made by the War Department During the War*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 110 ft. | 1919-1921 | 66th |

**22.69** On June 4, 1919, Frank W. Mondell of Wyoming, speaking before the House, noted that "in ordinary times" the War Department spent approximately $130 million each year, but that during the war it had spent $16 billion. He argued that, in fairness to the American public, there should be a select committee to review these enormous expenditures. Though a standing committee with jurisdiction in this matter already existed (see Chapter 11), Mondell noted that it was not equipped or inclined to undertake the task. The resolution to create the select committee was resisted by Democrats who perceived it as a political attack on the Wilson Administration. Nevertheless, the resolution passed, establishing the select committee (66A-F41.1). The select committee created five subcommittees to deal with the areas of aviation, camps, foreign expenditures, quartermaster corps, and ordnance.

**22.70** Almost all of the extensive records of the committee are documents transmitted by the Secretary of War to Congress as a report of claims adjusted under the act of March 2, 1919, to provide relief in cases of contracts connected with the prosecution of the war (Public Law 65-322). The Secretary's cover letter and summary report were transmitted to Congress with six file cabinets full of documents and one bound volume. The records consist of case files regarding the claims that are filed according to an alphanumeric scheme. The case files include copies of contracts and related documents, affidavits, statements of claims, and memorandums prepared for the claims board. The claims cover a wide range of contracts, relating to the air service, chemical warfare, construction, real estate, the signal corps, transportation, and other subjects.

**22.71** Other records include correspondence, subcommittee minutes, subcommittee staff reports, copies of printed hearings, and administrative records. There are statements of accounts from the War Department for the years 1915-16, lists of salaries of claims board personnel, photographs, blueprints, maps, memorandums, and a card index to committee correspondents.

**22.72** Some records concern the Council of National Defense established in August 1916 by Public Law 64-242 for the coordination of industries and resources for the national security and welfare. The Council was comprised of the Secretaries of War, Navy, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Labor. The select committee records include minutes of the Council and of its advisory commission.

### *Select Committee on United States Shipping Board Operations (1919-21)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 13 ft. | 1919-21 | 66th-67th |

**22.73** On September 7, 1916, the United States Shipping Board was established for the promotion of the American Merchant Marine and the regulation of foreign and domestic shipping. During the period of United States involvement in World War I, the Shipping Board, working through the Emergency Fleet Corporation, exercised emergency powers to fulfill wartime shipping requirements. In accomplishing its enormous task, the Shipping Board expended approximately one-tenth of every dollar spent on the war and encountered considerable criticism regarding costs, the awarding of contracts, commandeering of ships, and the postwar disposition of vessels. After the war, the suspicion was widespread that inefficiency and extravagance had prevailed in the conduct of wartime activities generally and the Shipping Board in particular.

**22.74** On July 24, 1919, amid a highly-charged political atmosphere and in the face of angry opposition, the House established the Select Committee on United States Shipping Board Operations (66A-F40.1). Joseph Walsh of Massachusetts served as chairman. The committee began its work by holding hearings aboard a train en route from Spokane to Seattle. It later held hearings at Bellingham, WA; Seattle; Portland; San Francisco; New York City; and Washington, DC, and visited numerous plants and shipyards. The committee presented its report on March 2, 1921 (H. Rept. 1399, 66th Cong., 3d sess., Serial 7777).

**22.75** The records include annotated copies of a report on investigations into many aspects of the Shipping Board's operations prepared for the committee by its clerk and statistician and his assistant, published and unpublished materials submitted to the committee, correspondence, investigative reports and papers, and personnel and other administrative records. There are exhibits relating to the reconditioning of the *U.S.S. Leviathan* for conversion from a troopship to a commercial passenger vessel, including blueprints, correspondence, and memorandums. Printed and typewritten transcripts of hearings, and typewritten minutes of the committee are also among the records.

**22.76.** A finding aid is available for the records of this committee.

### *Select Committee to Investigate the Preparation, Distribution, Sale, Payment, Retirement, Surrender, Cancellation, and Destruction of Government Bonds and Other Securities (1924-25)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 2 ft. | 1924-25 | 68th |

**22.77** On January 15, 1924, Charles B. Brewer, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, submitted a report to the Attorney General charging that there had been fraudulent duplications or overissues of certain Government bonds, that Treasury Department officials had suppressed information concerning the matter, and that there was fraud or carelessness in the handling of securities after retirement. On March 24, 1924, the House established the select committee to investigate the handling of government bonds and other securities. Brewer served as its counsel. In a letter to the President of April 26, 1924, Secretary of the Treasury A.W. Mellon denied the charges, but acknowledged some mechanical clerical errors in preparing and recording wartime securities, as well as some petty thefts of retired securities. Mellon protested that Brewer was raising old allegations that had previously been laid to rest and strongly denied any cause for alarm.

**22.78** Among the records are copies of the committee report and the confidential committee print of proceedings and hearings, as well as newspaper clippings, magazine articles, minutes, and bills and resolutions relating to the investigation. There are transcripts of testimony, correspondence, and other papers from the Secretary of the Treasury pertaining to a case involving a theft of government bonds from the Studebaker Corporation of South Bend, IN.

### *Select Committee of Inquiry into Operation of the United States Air Services (1924-25)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 21 ft. | 1924-25 | 68th-69th |

**22.79** The Select Committee of Inquiry into Operation of the United States Air Services (68A-F41) was established on March 24, 1924, in response to allegations that conditions in the Government air services tended to place the air defense of the United States in peril. It was charged that Army and Navy contracting officers and members of the aircraft industry were guilty of corruption, that aircraft builders conspired among themselves and made excessive profits, and that certain aircraft builders were stealing the patents of inventors.

**22.80** The select committee was authorized to investigate the operations of the United States Army Air Service, United States Naval Bureau of Aeronautics, and the United States Mail Air Service. In addition to the various charges, other topics considered by the committee included the state of the aircraft industry, the development of commercial flights, and the administration of the air services, particularly in relation to national defense. The committee held intermittent public hearings from October 4, 1924, to March 2, 1925, in Washington, D.C.; New York City; Pasadena; and San Diego at which more than 150 witnesses testified. In addition, the committee visited a number of air fields and other locations in order to gain better understanding of the issues. J. Frederick Richardson, chief consulting investigator of the committee, visited Europe on a factfinding mission for his analytical comparison of the air services of England, France, Italy, and the United States. The committee reported its finding and recommendations on December 14, 1925.

**22.81** Records of the committee include correspondence, memorandums, committee minutes, subpoenas, informational materials maintained for reference purposes, and records regarding committee finances and personnel. The committee sent three successive questionnaires to the Navy, War, and Post Office Departments regarding such topics as procurement practices, personnel, facilities, operations, and air accidents. Replies, along with accompanying documents, are among the records. Exhibits, few of which were published with the hearings transcripts, are included, as well as an alphabetical subject index to most of the committee records and to related information in various publications by groups other than the committee.

**22.82** There is a finding aid to the records of this committee.

### *Select Committee On Conservation of Wildlife Resources (1934-46)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 9 ft. | 1934-46 | 73d-79th |

**22.83** On January 29, 1934, the House created the Select Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources, consisting of 15 members, including the chairmen of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on Merchant Marine, Radio, and Fisheries, as well as the two House Members on the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. A. Willis Robertson of Virginia served as committee chairman throughout the committee's 13-year existence. The committee monitored, studied, and investigated the wildlife conservation activities of a number of Federal agencies, including the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and other agencies tangentially involved in wildlife conservation.

**22.84** Among the records are printed copies of House and Senate bills, accompanied by related correspondence with Members of Congress, Federal and State agencies, private groups, and individual citizens. These touch upon such topics as wildlife and migratory bird refuges, construction of certain public works, conservation of fishery resources, and the acquisition of additional land for national parks. Also included is correspondence on more general subjects, memorandums, published materials relating to conservation, and drafts and copies of committee reports. Records relating to the committee hearings include correspondence with Federal and State agencies in preparation for the hearings, correspondence with witnesses after the hearings, lists of witnesses and the topics to be discussed during the hearings, and the published transcripts of committee hearings. There are committee minutes, copies of speeches by Robertson, clippings from the *Congressional Record*, and correspondence from citizens requesting copies of the published hearings and reports.

**22.85** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Special Committee on Un-American Activities Authorized To Investigate Nazi Propaganda and Certain Other Propaganda Activities (1934-35)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 21 ft. | 1934-35 | 73d-74th |

**22.86** The Special Committee on Un-American Activities Authorized To Investigate Nazi Propaganda and Certain Other Propaganda Activities (73A-F30.1), forerunner of the Committee on Un-American Activities, was created pursuant to House Resolution 198, 73d Cong., adopted on March 20, 1934. The committee was established in reaction to the overthrow of a number of established foreign Governments in favor of communist or fascist systems and reflected concern that foreign propaganda might subvert the U.S. Constitution. Accordingly, the committee was established to ascertain information on how foreign subversive propaganda entered the U.S. and the organizations that were spreading it, as well as to suggest legislation to remedy the situation.

**22.87** The committee was frequently referred to as the McCormack-Dickstein Committee in reference to its chairman and vice chairman, John W. McCormack of Massachusetts and Samuel Dickstein of New York. It conducted public and executive hearings intermittently between April 26 and December 29, 1934, in Washington, D.C.; New York; Chicago; Los Angeles; Newark; and Asheville, NC, examining hundreds of witnesses and accumulating more than 4,300 pages of testimony. The committee accumulated evidence regarding individuals and organizations who worked to establish in the United States policies followed by the Nazis in Germany, the Fascists in Italy, and the Communists in Russia. The committee gave particular attention to the organization and activities of Friends of New Germany and Silver Shirts of America. The committee submitted its report on February 15, 1935 (H. Rept. 153, 74th Cong., 1st sess., Serial 9890).

**22.88** Records of the committee include correspondence, investigative reports, press reports, drafts of the committee report, printed resolutions pertaining to the committee or related topics, and vouchers and other administrative documents. There are also transcripts of both public and executive hearings, exhibits, subpoenas, memorandums, reference materials, and copies of domestic and foreign publications circulated in the United States. Records obtained by the committee from the files of William Dudley Pelley, leader of the Silver Shirts of America, are also included; they consist of correspondence concerning personal matters and his activities as a writer, as well as correspondence and other records concerning the organization and administration of the Silver Shirts.

**22.89** There is a finding aid to the records of this committee.

### *Select Committee to Investigate Real Estate Bondholders' Reorganizations (1934-38)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 247 ft. | 1934-38 | 73d-75th |

**22.90** During the optimistic 1920's, more than a million Americans who were swayed by promises of high interest bought bonds secured by real property. The depression of the 1930's brought a decline in payments on the bonds and the establishment of so-called protective bondholders committees. By playing upon people's fears, the committees encouraged bondholders to turn over to them their securities, as well as powers of attorney over the real estate securing the bonds.

**22.91.** Congress received thousands of letters and telegrams complaining that the bondholders committees served special interests, charged exorbitant fees, and defrauded investors. In addition, holders of defaulted securities looked to Congress for relief. Accordingly, on June 15, 1934, the House established a select committee to investigate the methods, activities, and practices of real estate "reorganization" or "bondholders" committees and to make recommendations for corrective legislation. The 1935 reauthorization of the investigation directed the committee to request

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the appropriate Federal agency to assign attorneys or agents to the committee whenever a possible violation of Federal law was discovered. Later the scope of the investigation broadened to include an investigation of receivers' and lawyers' fees, and court appearances by committee members to furnish evidence in connection with reorganization proceedings. Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois served as chairman throughout the life of the committee.

**22.92** Records of the committee reflect the work of the committee's Washington, D.C., office and field offices in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis, and San Francisco. The records of each office remain as a separate unit except for the records of the Milwaukee office, which are interfiled with those from Washington, D.C.

**22.93** The committee gathered most of the information for its study through questionnaires, public hearings, and private hearings conducted by members of the staff in the field offices. Some questionnaires were sent to protective committees, banks, receivers of defaulted mortgages and bonds, lawyers, and associated groups. Other questionnaires, designed to be completed by holders of defaulted securities, appeared in newspapers and magazines.

**22.94** Among the records are correspondence between the field offices and the Washington, D.C., office, general correspondence, investigative reports, memorandums, and work papers. There are responses to the questionnaires submitted by bondholders protective committees, banks, attorneys, real estate agents, receivers of defaulted mortgages and bonds, and others, as well as copies of deposit agreements, balance sheets, statements of profits and losses, prospectuses, and reorganization plans. Records relating to various legislative proposals include copies of printed bills and resolutions with related drafts, analytical memorandums, amendments, and work papers. Other records include transcripts of testimony, depositions, drafts of the committee reports, and related work papers. There are also press releases, drafts of speeches by Sabath, newspaper clippings, subpoenas, and committee personnel and financial records,

**22.95** A finding aid to the records of this committee is available.

### *Select Committee on Government Organization (1937-1941)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 6 ft. | 1937-41 | 75th-76th |

**22.96** On January 12, 1937, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a message to Congress in which he outlined the need for a reorganization of the administrative management of the executive branch and transmitted the report of the Committee on Administrative Management, which he had appointed to examine the problem and propose changes. Roosevelt noted that implementation of the committee's five-point program would require congressional action. Accordingly, on January 14, 1937, the House established the Select Committee on Government Organization (76A-F44.1) to consider and report on the President's message and on all legislative proposals regarding governmental reorganization and related subjects. The committee continued until January 3, 1941.

**22.97** Records include hearings transcripts, briefs, correspondence, memorandums, petitions, and reference materials. There are also copies of legislative proposals regarding governmental reorganization and a comparative analysis of them, as well as materials regarding the proposals of the President's Committee on Administrative Management. The committee report, printed hearings, and studies of the Joint Committee on Government Organization, which was composed of both the House select committee and its counterpart in the Senate, are among the records, as are staff reports, correspondence, and printed materials regarding the predecessor Select Committee on Reorganization (1936).

### *Special Committee to Investigate the National Labor Relations Board (1939-1940)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 91 ft. | 1939-40 | 76th |

**22.98** The National Labor Relations Act, enacted on July 5, 1935, established the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) with authority to conduct plant elections and issue restraining orders against unfair practices. In 1939, criticisms of the Board were voiced at congressional hearings held before the House Committee on Labor and the Senate Committee on Education and Labor. Industrialists, who from the beginning had resisted the NLRB, were pressing for repeal; in addition, certain union leaders took issue with some of the actions of the Board and accused it of maladministration. These criticisms led to the establishment of the Special Committee to Investigate the National Labor Relations Board on July 20, 1939 (76A-F.45.1).

**22.99** The committee mailed 60,000 questionnaires to persons mentioned in the case dockets of the NLRB and received 10,000 responses. Another questionnaire mailed to every police chief in the country elicited 600 replies. Letters sent to every law professor whose expertise related to the subject solicited their opinions on the Board's administration and invited comment on the National Labor Relations Act. The committee conducted hundreds of interviews and received thousands of letters. It conducted searches of NLRB files in Washington and nine regional offices, obtaining photostatic copies of case notes, minutes, instructions, and decisions. Extensive committee hearings resulted in the publication of 1,600 printed pages of transcripts and exhibits.

**22.100.** Records of the committee are voluminous and consist largely of responses to the committee questionnaires, materials obtained from the offices of the NLRB, correspondence, and exhibits entered into the record of the committee hearings. There are also records relating to committee finances and personnel, as well as card indexes relating to the work of the committee.

***Select Committee To Investigate Interstate Migration of Destitute Citizens (1940-41)***

***Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration (1941-43)***

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 65 ft. | 1940-43 | 76th-78th |

**22.101** One of many profound effects of the economic troubles of the 1930's was the interstate migration of large numbers of people in search of employment. This mass movement in itself caused social and economic changes. On April 22, 1940, the House established the Select Committee to Investigate Interstate Migration of Destitute Citizens to study the migration, the social and economic needs of the poor, and the existing government programs to meet those needs in order to gain better understanding of the situation and its implications and to aid Congress in enacting remedial legislation. John H. Tolan of California was appointed chairman. Between July 1940 and March 1941, the committee held public hearings in various regions of the country at which 371 witnesses testified; it presented its final report on April 3, 1941.

**22.102** While conducting the study, the committee became aware of another large-scale migration that was occurring. Increasingly, workers were moving to manufacturing centers in search of employment in defense industries. Accordingly, on March 31, 1941, the House passed a resolution continuing the select committee under the title of Select Committee Investigating National Defense Migration to study the ramifications of the defense-oriented migration. The committee conducted public hearings around the country from June 1941 to September 1942, including hearings on the West Coast in February and March 1942 to consider the problems inherent in the proposed relocation of enemy aliens and Japanese-Americans. The committee issued eight reports relating to national defense migration and the evacuation effort, culminating with the final report on January 8, 1943 (H. Rept. 3, 78th Cong., 1st sess., Serial 10760).

**22.103** Records of the two committees were maintained as one unit, reflecting the continuity in membership and general subject matter rather than the change in name and focus. Included is correspondence with Federal agencies, Members of Congress, State Governors and other governmental officials, representatives of labor and welfare organizations, businessmen, farmers, and the general public. Memorandums, staff reports containing personal histories of workers, interview summaries, transcripts of hearings, and witness statements are also among the records, as well as drafts of committee reports and monographs prepared to supplement a committee report. There are newspaper clippings and other informational materials, maps and charts, press releases, and records regarding committee personnel.

**22.104** Among the topics covered by the records are migration, settlement of indigent farm families in Brazil, agricultural workers, labor supply problems in Florida, and migration problems of specific locations.

Subjects relating to World War II include evacuation of enemy aliens and others from the Pacific Coast, utilization of the Nation's industrial capacity in the defense effort, and shortages of community facilities in defense areas.

**22.105** There is a finding aid to the records of this committee.

### *Select Committee to Investigate Air Accidents (1941-43)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 24 ft. | 1941-43 | 77th-78th |

**22.106** Beginning in the fall of 1940, a series of fatal accidents involving commercial aircraft appalled the public and led to demands for a thorough investigation. Accordingly, on March 12, 1941, the House created the Select Committee to Investigate Air Accidents to ascertain the facts about all aspects of the air accidents that occurred in 1940 and 1941. (This was later extended to encompass accidents in 1942.) The committee was given authority to investigate airplane construction, ground facilities, airline management and operations, laws and regulations, enforcement activities, airline liability, and other information necessary to enable the committee to recommend improvements. Jack Nichols of Oklahoma was appointed chairman.

**22.107** The committee held executive hearings at the scenes of various accidents. Its findings and recommendations for actions to be taken by the airlines, Federal agencies, and Congress were presented to the House of Representatives in a series of reports. In addition, during the war years, the committee became an advocate for development of the civilian commercial aviation industry as a defense measure. The committee ended on May 12, 1942, with the submission of its last report.

**22.108** Records of the committee include accident reports, photographs of plane crashes, and documents containing flight and maintenance data, as well as correspondence with Federal agencies, commercial airlines, and others. There are memorandums, exhibits, reference materials, stenographic notes, proofs of hearings testimony, and vouchers and other administrative records.

**22.109** Subjects covered by the records include specific air accidents, manufacture of cargo and passenger planes, jurisdiction over the air space, liability for accidents, development and safety of commercial planes, and airline operations. Some records relate to a committee trip to Latin America in the fall of 1941.

**22.110** There is a finding aid to the records of this committee.

### *Select Committee to Investigate Acts of Executive Agencies Beyond the Scope of Their Authority (1943-46)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 37 ft. | 1943-46 | 78th-79th |

**22.111** Both the Depression and World War II witnessed the creation of numerous additional executive agencies; some, such as those in charge of the rationing programs, had considerable power. On February 11, 1943, the House created the Select Committee to Investigate Acts of Executive Agencies Beyond the Scope of Their Authority in response to the general perception that Congress had relinquished its authority. The committee was to serve as a board of review over administrative procedures by conducting investigations of Federal department or agency actions and regulations if the committee received complaints that a particular Federal agency was exceeding its authority, invading constitutional rights, or imposing penalties without providing citizens a fair tribunal to present their defense. Howard W. Smith of Virginia served as chairman.

**22.112** Within one month after the creation of the committee, it had received over 4,000 complaints from businesses and private citizens against Federal agencies, most notably the Office of Price Administration, the War Production Board, and the National War Labor Board. The committee held hearings intermittently from April 1943 to June 1946, receiving testimony from complainants and Federal officials. A series of reports to the House conveyed the committee findings and its recommendations for legislation or administrative measures to remedy problems.

**22.113** Records of the committee consist mainly of correspondence and accompanying documents regarding complaints, as well as evidence received during committee hearings. Most of the correspondence is with complainants, but Federal agencies, Members of Congress, and members of the general public are also represented. There are transcripts of hearings, copies of committee reports, staff memorandums and reports, legal documents, and some administrative records of the committee.

**22.114** The records are arranged by the Department or agency against whom a complaint was made. Included are the President's Fair Employment Practice Committee, National War Labor Board, Office of Price Administration, Federal Home Loan Bank Administration, War Production Board, and many other agencies.

**22.115** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Planning (1944-46)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 ft. | 1944-46 | 78th-79th |

**22.116** As World War II began drawing to a close, concern grew that the United States would experience severe unemployment during the reconversion period. On January 26, 1944, the House created the Special Committee on Postwar Economic Policy and Planning to undertake a comprehensive study to assist Congress in formulating a postwar economic policy that would ease the transition to a peacetime economy. Working through seven subcommittees, the committee held extensive hearings and conducted studies on various phases of the economy. It issued 10 reports on specific subjects in addition to the final report of December 12, 1946 (H. Rept. 2729, 79th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11026).

**22.117** Records include reports, printed hearings, exhibits, reports on certain Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) conferences with private groups, and a number of prospectuses submitted by corporations to the SEC.

### *Select Committee on Post-War Military Policy (1944-46)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 10 ft. | 1944-46 | 78th-79th |

**22.118** As World War II was coming to an end, the House, on March 28, 1944, established the Select Committee on Post-War Military Policy composed of seven members each from the committees on military and naval affairs and nine additional members. The select committee was directed to study postwar military requirements and report the findings periodically. Clifton A. Woodrum of Virginia served as chairman.

**22.119** The committee concentrated on three problems: whether a universal military training program should be established, whether a single department should be created to encompass all the armed services, and how the armed services might benefit from scientific research and development. Extensive public hearings were held from April 1944 to June 1945, with witnesses including civilian and military officials of the Federal Government, representatives of veterans organizations, leaders of labor unions, and other citizens.

**22.120** The records include the chairman's correspondence, transcripts of hearings, statements of witnesses, treatises on topics relating to the committee's work, newspapers and magazine clippings, and administrative records of the committee. Also included are transcripts of testimony and statements of witnesses presented before the special committee commissioned by the Joint Chiefs of Staff to obtain the views of ranking military officers regarding the optimum organization of the national defense agencies.

**22.121** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee to Investigate the Seizure of Montgomery Ward and Company (1944)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 ft. | 1944 | 78th |

**22.122** On April 26, 1944, the United States Government seized the Chicago properties of Montgomery Ward and Company under an Executive order issued because the corporation refused to abide by a National War Labor Board order extending a union contract with the firm. Montgomery Ward challenged the Government's authority to take this action; Sewell Avery, chief executive officer, refused to cooperate or to leave his offices and was subsequently carried from the building by two soldiers. On May 5, 1944, the House established the Select Committee to Investigate the Seizure of Montgomery Ward and Company. The committee held hearings in May and June and submitted its report on September 19, 1944.

**22.123** Records of the committee include correspondence, minutes, briefing materials, and committee vouchers, as well as material received from the National War Labor Board including press releases, reports, and rules of organization and procedure. Printed materials among the records include newspaper clippings, magazine articles, and copies of the committee's report and printed hearings.

### *Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Communications Commission (1943-45)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 45 ft. | 1943-45 | 78th |

**22.124** The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) was established on June 19, 1934, to regulate radio broadcasting and interstate and foreign communications by radio and wire. On January 19, 1943, the House passed a resolution introduced by E. E. Cox of Georgia that established the Select Committee to Investigate the Federal Communications Commission and endowed it with broad authority to study and investigate the organization, personnel, and activities of the FCC to determine if it was acting lawfully and in the public interest. In his comments on the resolution, Cox said that he had introduced it in response to numerous complaints from small broadcasters, newspapers having an interest in broadcasting, and employees of various Government departments, including the Army and Navy. Cox stated that "all these people insisted that Mr. [James L.] Fly, the Chairman of the Commission, was undertaking to set up a despotic dictatorship over all media of communication." Cox charged that he had suffered FCC harassment since introduction of the resolution.[11]

**22.125** Records include correspondence with radio stations, the FCC, and others. There are memorandums, statements of witnesses, transcripts of hearings, exhibits, newspaper clippings, and printed reference materials. Documents obtained by the committee from the FCC are among the records, including licensing case files, press releases, public notices, speeches of FCC officials, and organizational charts. Vouchers and other financial records of the committee are also included.

**22.126** Topics covered by the records include radio station licensing, FCC personnel, and the Radio Intelligence Division of the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service.

### *Select Committee to Investigate the Disposition of Surplus Property (1946)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 10 ft. | 1946 | 79th |

**22.127** Among the many important tasks facing the Government at the end of World War II was that of divesting itself of much unneeded equipment, facilities, and real estate acquired during the war effort. Faced with this task, it is perhaps unsurprising that charges of favoritism in the disposal of property surfaced in the press by May 1946. In response to these charges, the House established the Select Committee to Investigate the Disposition of Surplus Property on May 9, 1946. The committee was authorized to study and investigate the program to dispose of surplus real estate, munitions, vehicles, and other defense-related holdings of the Government, taking into consideration the contracts, methods of selection, effects on employment, advisability of continued Government operation of some of the property, and related matters. Roger C. Slaughter of Missouri was appointed chairman.

**22.128** The select committee concentrated its efforts upon an investigation of the administrative and operational practices of the War Assets Administration, the Federal agency with primary responsibility for the property disposition program. The committee held intermittent public hearings from July to December 1946 in Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; Kansas City; Brooklyn, N.Y.; St. Louis; and Los Angeles, compiling 6,500 pages of testimony and 445 exhibits from approximately 300 witnesses. The hearings covered a variety of topics, including site sales, disposal of specific types of materiel, allocation of C-54 airplanes to commercial airlines, and diversion of steel rails by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration from China to Yugoslavia. The committee also received many letters of complaint from citizens and businesses that were referred to the War Assets Administration for correction or explanation. The committee was dissolved when it filed its third and final report on December 31, 1946.

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[11] *Congressional Record*, 78th Cong., 1st sess., 19 January 1943, vol. 89, pt. 1, p. 234.

**22.129** Records of the select committee include transcripts, exhibits, correspondence, informational materials, memorandums, work papers, and other documents pertaining to committee hearings. There are also summaries of the testimony of individual witnesses and two sets of the published hearings.

**22.130** Although the select committee did not survive the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, its work was taken over by the standing Committee on Expenditures in the Executive Departments, which created the Surplus Property Subcommittee (see Chapter 11). A finding aid that describes the records of both the select committee and the subcommittee is available.

## Records of Select Committees, 80th-90th Congresses (1947-1968)

**22.131** The practice of establishing select committees to investigate specific issues of particular concern met with strong opposition during consideration of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (S. 2177, 79th Cong.). The original version of the bill that reached the House of Representatives after passage by the Senate stated, in section 126: "No bill or resolution, and no amendment to any bill or resolution, to establish or to continue a special or select committee, including a joint committee, shall be received or considered in either the Senate or the House of Representatives." Critics of select committees argued that if the Legislative Reorganization Act clarified jurisdictional boundaries among the various standing committees, there would be little likelihood that an issue of critical concern would not fit clearly within the jurisdiction of a standing committee. If clear and comprehensive jurisdictional assignments covered every conceivable subject of legislative concern, continual oversight of Federal agencies by the standing committees could be provided rather than sporadic monitoring by the select committees. The result would be less duplication of effort and a generally more efficient Congress.

**22.132** The House of Representatives was not ready to relinquish the practice of establishing select committees; that Chamber sent the Legislative Reorganization Act back to the Senate without the section prohibiting select and special committees. When the act was eventually signed as Public Law 79-601, the House version had prevailed on this issue.

**22.133** Nevertheless, as the 80th Congress began, the attitude toward select or special committees was not entirely positive. The standing committees jealously guarded their carefully delineated jurisdictional prerogatives, and a number of proposals to establish new select committees encountered formidable resistance. Ironically, however, some of the select committees that were established owed their existence to the jurisdictional fragmentation among standing committees. In such cases, a subject that cut across jurisdictional lines, such as foreign aid, might be assigned to a select committee drawing members from the various standing committees with jurisdictional claims to the subject.

**22.134** In this section, as in the previous one, the records of each select or special committee are described separately and arranged in order of the date of establishment of the committee, with one exception: all records of the various committees on campaign expenditures, though filed as separate units and dating from 1928 to 1964, are described collectively at the end of the section.

### *Select Committee on Newsprint and Paper Supply (1947-48)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 5 in. | 1947-48 | 80th |

**22.135** The Select Committee on Newsprint and Paper Supply (80A-F20.1) was established on February 26, 1947, to continue an investigation begun by a subcommittee of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce in response to complaints from newspaper publishers and other consumers of paper products about a scarcity of newsprint and other paper. Creation of the select committee was controversial. Supporters argued, among other points, that a select committee was required because the subject of the investigation overlapped the jurisdiction of five standing committees. Opponents of the select committee favored continuation of the investigation in the Commerce Committee and argued that creation of a select committee contravened the spirit of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

**22.136** The select committee was directed to focus its investigation on possibilities of increased paper production in the United States, prospects of securing increased supplies from other sources, and roles that governmental agencies or officers might play in alleviating the shortage. The committee and its members worked with various private groups and governmental agencies in the study and survey of available pulpwood supplies, conducted a series of public hearings, held a series of conferences in Toronto, Canada, to discuss the newsprint and paper supply situation, made visits to paper mills and other relevant sites, and assisted various publishers' associations and individual publishers in obtaining needed supplies of newsprint. The committee submitted its final report on December 31, 1948.

**22.137** Records of the committee include copies of committee reports, minutes of meetings, and transcripts of testimony received in hearings.

***Select Committee on Foreign Aid (1947-48)***

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 50 ft. | 1947-48 | 80th |

**22.138** Speaking at the commencement ceremonies of Harvard University in June 1947, Secretary of State George C. Marshall advised the war-torn countries of Europe to formulate a joint plan for reconstruction and pledged that the United States would cooperate to ensure its success. Policy makers in the United States had arrived at the conclusion that European recovery was in the Nation's self-interest. An intense, large-scale foreign aid program would be required.

**22.139** In the House of Representatives, at least six standing committees claimed some jurisdiction over foreign aid issues and programs. Under the circumstances, a select committee whose membership represented each of these standing committees seemed the most likely means of producing a comprehensive analysis of the components of an effective foreign aid program.

**22.140** On July 15, 1947, Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts introduced H. Res. 296, 80th Cong., providing for the appointment of a Select Committee on Foreign Aid to undertake a broad, indepth study that would give the U.S. Government the fundamental understanding necessary to launch an adequate and effective program of foreign aid. The committee was authorized to determine the present and future relief and rehabilitation requirements of foreign nations, the resources and facilities available to meet those needs, and related matters. Charles A. Eaton of New Jersey was appointed chairman of the 19-member committee. Herter served as vice chairman.

**22.141** The committee began its task with a fact-finding trip to Europe, where it separated into five subcommittees to study the various countries. They toured factories, shops, and homes, interviewing political, business, labor, and farm leaders. The committee also profited from reports and information supplied by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress, and executive agencies. By the time it concluded its work in early May 1948, the committee had produced 24 preliminary reports and supplements in addition to its final report (H Rept. 1845, 80th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11214).

**22.142** Records include press releases, minutes of staff meetings, and correspondence and memorandums of committee members and staff, as well as memorandums and reports from Federal agencies, private groups, and international organizations and copies of the President's message on the Marshall plan. There are committee prints of preliminary staff studies on subjects of interest to the committee and some public preliminary reports of the committee. Among the informational materials are reports and transcripts of testimony of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, economic data and reports such as detailed statistical reports on the foreign trade of the United States from 1938 to 1947, and papers from the Brookings Institute and other private groups. There are also published bills and resolutions regarding foreign aid, with accompanying committee reports, and copies of some public laws of the 80th Congress.

**22.143** Records document four of the subcommittees established at the time of the committee's European trip: those visiting France and the Low Countries; Germany; Italy, Greece, and Trieste; and the United Kingdom. The subcommittee records include reports from American diplomats and others, memorandums summarizing interviews with foreign officials, foreign publications, newspaper clippings, subcommittee minutes and memorandums of conferences, correspondence, and communications and reports from foreign governments about conditions in postwar Europe.

**22.144** A variety of records relate to the Committee on European Economic Cooperation, which represented 16 European Nations and met in Paris to formulate a joint economic recovery program in accord with Marshall's suggestion. Included are copies of reports from various nations, dealing with economic conditions in their countries, and copies of State Department memorandums of conversations.

**22.145** Personnel records, vouchers, and index cards comprising the mailing list of the select committee or referring to publications relevant to the inquiry are also included.

**22.146** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee To Investigate Commodity Transactions (1947-48)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 12 ft | 1947-48 | 80th |

**22.147** On December 18, 1947, the House responded to charges that Government employees had used inside information to profit from speculation in commodity futures by creating the Select Committee To Investigate Commodity Transactions. The committee was authorized to investigate the purchase and sale of commodities, the activities of Federal departments or agencies affecting such purchase and sale, and the involvement of any Government personnel with the purchase or sale of commodities. August H. Andresen of Minnesota was appointed chairman.

**22.148** Public hearings took place between March 1 and June 16, 1948. The committee also used circular letters to brokerage firms to elicit complete information regarding certain commodity transactions and obtained additional information from certain Federal agencies. The committee presented four reports to the House on its findings and recommendations.

**22.149** Most records are arranged by investigative subject, including commodity trading activities of Government employees, the effect of Government commodity purchases on the cost of food, the commodity futures trading activities of aliens, speculation in fats and oils futures, and the severe drop in commodity prices on February 4, 1948. Among the records are correspondence with brokerage firms, copies of trading accounts received under subpoena from brokerage firms, abstracts of data from the replies to committee inquiries, and documents (such as lists of employees or traders and statistical tables and charts) supplied to the committee by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of War. There are also transcripts of testimony, and copies of subpoenas issued by the committee.

**22.150** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee To Investigate the Federal Communications Commission (1948)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 8 ft. | 1948 | 80th |

**22.151** The Select Committee To Investigate the Federal Communications Commission was created on June 19, 1948, to determine if the FCC was acting in accord with the law and public interest, particularly (but not exclusively) in its licensing and license renewal activities; whether the FCC was engaged in regulating radio-program content; whether the FCC licensed any station owned or controlled by persons associated with subversive or Communist front organizations; and whether there existed a concerted movement to limit the issuance of radio station licenses to a select few instead of distributing them equitably according to the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. Forest A. Harness of Indiana was appointed chairman.

**22.152** The committee focused its attention on the quasi-judicial nature of FCC functions and studied several cases involving possible conflict between the ideals of free speech and the public interest. Its findings and reports were presented in its final report on December 31, 1948.

**22.153** Records include minutes, investigative reports, and memorandums, as well as correspondence with the FCC, radio stations, networks, and others. Among the records are documents obtained from the files of the FCC, such as the photostatic copies of personnel records of the Legal Division, and reports received from the Committee on Un-American Activities regarding the backgrounds of certain FCC employees. There are also copies of committee reports and printed hearings, press releases, reference materials, and a ledger book and other materials regarding committee expenses.

### *Select Committee on Lobbying Activities (1949-50)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 22 ft. | 1949-50 | 81st |

**22.154** During World War II and the immediate postwar years, there was a marked increase in efforts of outside individuals and groups to influence Congress with regard to legislation. One result of this activity was Title III of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946. This section was entitled the Regulation of Lobbying Act; it required lobbyists to register with the Clerk of the House of Representatives and the Secretary of the Senate, to keep detailed financial records, and to file certain statements publicly disclosing information regarding the identity of contributors and amounts of the contributions. The continuing growth in lobbying activities and the need to monitor the effectiveness of the new law, led the House to establish the Select Committee on Lobbying Activities on August 12, 1949, to conduct a study and investigation of all lobbying activities. The committee was also directed to study efforts of Federal agencies to influence legislation. Frank Buchanan of Pennsylvania was appointed chairman.

**22.155** The committee inquired generally into the role of lobbying in representative government, then proceeded to investigate the activities of particular organizations, including the United States Savings and Loan League, the American Enterprise Association, the National Economic Council, the Civil Rights Congress, and Americans for Democratic Action, in addition to its study of Federal agency activities. The committee sent questionnaires to Members of Congress; business, labor, and farm organizations; political scientists; journalists; and others. It held intermittent hearings from March to August 1950 and submitted several reports to the House. The presentation of the minority report marked the end of the committee's work (H. Rept. 3239, Pt. 2, 81st Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11385).

**22.156** Records include transcripts of committee meetings held in executive session and of the committee hearings, and copies of the committee reports. All other records comprise a single, consolidated alphabetical file. Included are correspondence, memorandums, investigative reports, photostatic copies of materials from the files of persons and organizations being investigated, publications issued by such organizations, press releases, newspaper clippings, and replies to questionnaires. There are also vouchers and other administrative records of the committee.

**22.157** Subjects covered by the records are the identity of lobbyists and lobbying groups, interrelationships among them, their expenditures, their sources of funds, and direct and indirect lobbying techniques.

**22.158** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee To Investigate the Use of Chemicals In Food and Cosmetics (1950-52)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 25 ft. | 1950-52 | 81st-82d |

**22.159** During the 1940's, the number and variety of chemicals added to the Nation's food supply increased at an unprecedented rate, alarming certain scientists and nutritionists who questioned the longterm effects of these chemicals and challenged the adequacy of the testing process. Accordingly, on June 20, 1950, the House established the Select Committee to Investigate the Use of Chemicals in Food Products. James J. Delaney of New York was appointed chairman. Vincent A. Kleinfeld, Special Assistant to the

United States Attorney General, was loaned to the committee by the Department of Justice to serve as chief counsel.

**22.160** The committee was authorized to inquire into the extent and the effect of the use of chemicals, synthetics, pesticides, and insecticides in the production and preparation of food products and to determine the effects of such use on the public and upon agricultural stability. The committee also was directed to consider the use of chemicals, compounds, and synthetics in the manufacture of fertilizer and to analyze their effects on soil, vegetation, animals, the quantity and quality of food production, and public health and welfare. In October 1951, the committee was given the additional authority to investigate the use of chemicals, compounds, and synthetics in the production of cosmetics and determine the health effects of the practice. The committee's title was changed accordingly.

**22.161** The select committee held 20 days of intermittent public hearings in Washington and Chicago from September to December 1950. Additional hearings were held on 39 days from April 1951 to March 1952 in six cities. Among the 217 witnesses who testified were Federal agency officials, prominent scientists and other experts, as well as representatives from the affected industries, medical and health organizations, professional associations, and consumer groups. The findings and recommendations of the committee were presented in a series of reports.

**22.162** Records include correspondence, memorandums, and minutes of executive meetings of the committee. Samples of form letters sent to elicit information from scientists, manufacturers, processors, health organizations, and others are among the records, along with the replies to the form letters and accompanying documents. Records relating to the committee and subcommittee hearings include transcripts, correspondence with witnesses, and their prepared statements. There are reference materials stating the views of consumer organizations, educational and research institutions, labor and industry, and Federal agencies, as well as various lists, a statistical table, copies of bills and resolutions, and newspaper clippings concerning the committee inquiry. Copies of the committee reports, press releases, correspondence relating to personnel applications, material regarding committee finances, and committee mailing lists are also included.

### *Select Committee To Investigate Educational, Training, and Loan Guaranty Programs Under the G.I. Bill (1950-52)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 25 ft. | 1950-52 | 81st-82d |

**22.163** As World War II drew to a close, Congress recognized the need to establish benefit programs for the Nation's returning veterans. The Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1943 (Public Law 78-16) instituted a rehabilitation program for disabled veterans. In the following year, on June 22, 1944, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act became law (Public Law 78-346). The 1944 Act, frequently referred to as the G.I. Bill of Rights, or simply the G.I. Bill, provided, among other things, for guaranteed loans to veterans and for payment of educational and living expenses to veterans who wished to pursue educational and vocational training goals.

**22.164** Participation in the veterans programs was overwhelming, but both veterans and educational institutions quickly criticized management of the educational program by the Veterans Administration (V.A.), charging ineptitude, waste, abuse, and even corruption. In response to these allegations, in August 1950, the House established the Select Committee to Investigate the Educational and Training Programs Under the G.I. Bill. Olin E. Teague of Texas was appointed chairman.

**22.165** The select committee's initial investigations considered the management of the education and training program, policies regarding the issuance of supplies to the students and trainees, contract procedures concerning educational institutions, and the on-the-job training program. When the committee was revived in 1951 at the beginning of the 82d Congress, its powers were increased to include an investigation of the loan guaranty program, and the committee title was expanded to reflect the change. The committee held hearings between December 1950 and June 1952 in California, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, and the District of Columbia. It presented its findings to the House in two reports before concluding its work in September 1952.

**22.166** Records of the committee include documents concerning the committee's organization and operation, as well as reference service reports from the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress. Among the records are reports received from the State and territorial agencies discussing their programs to approve schools for participation in the G.I. Bill programs and from insurance companies and agencies regarding their on-the-job training programs. Other records include replies to a letter sent by the committee to each V.A. regional office for the purpose of compiling a list of V.A. personnel involved in irregularities connected with the education program.

**22.167** Correspondence, investigative reports, staff memorandums, and newspaper clippings are available concerning committee hearings on several subjects. These include the operations of Pennsylvania's Department of Public Instruction in approving schools to participate in the G.I. Bill programs, abuses in administration of the loan guaranty program by the San Diego regional office, the General Accounting Office survey of the education and training program, and payments to the University of Maryland under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act. Staff memorandums, correspondence, affidavits, photographs and other exhibits received by the committee, and informational materials document the committee's investigations of the Tri-State Training Institute of Wheeling, WV; housing bought by veterans in the Washington metropolitan area; private trade schools in Tennessee; and V.A. policies and practices for furnishing educational supplies and equipment to students.

**22.168** There are case files relating to 258 unnamed educational institutions mentioned in Appendix D of a 1950 V.A. report to the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. The appendix had detailed the types of problems that existed between the V.A. and educational institutions, outlining cases involving the 258 schools. The select committee obtained the names of the schools and undertook a study of all the charges against them.

**22.169** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee To Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre (1951-52)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 10 ft. | 1951-52 | 82d |

**22.170** In April 1943, in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk in the Soviet Union, German troops discovered several mass graves containing the remains of thousands of Polish Army officers and intellectual leaders captured by the Soviets during their invasion of Poland in September 1939. The Soviets blamed the Germans, but a medical commission organized by the Germans determined that the massacre occurred at a time when the area was under Soviet control.

**22.171** On September 18, 1951, the House established the Select Committee To Conduct an Investigation and Study of the Facts, Evidence, and Circumstances of the Katyn Forest Massacre. Ray J. Madden of Indiana was appointed chairman.

**22.172** The committee assembled records relating to the Katyn massacre and its aftermath from the files of the State Department, the War Department, and elsewhere. In addition, the committee heard extensive testimony from witnesses, took depositions from others not appearing at the hearings, and interviewed numerous other individuals whose appearance as witnesses was not deemed necessary.

**22.173** The committee undertook to determine which Nation was guilty and whether any American officials had engaged in a coverup regarding the massacre. With regard to the first issue, the committee laid the blame for the massacre on the Soviet NKVD and recommended that the Soviets be tried before the International World Court of Justice. The question of an American coverup was less clearcut. In its final report, the committee concluded that U.S. officials failed to properly evaluate and act upon clear danger signals available as early as 1942 that the Soviets had imperialist intentions (H. Rept. 2505, 82d Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11578). In addition, the committee found that American policy toward the Soviet Union might have been different if information deliberately withheld from the public had been disseminated. The committee mentioned the possibility, without elaboration, that lower level governmental officials with Communist sympathies might have attempted to cover up such reports.

**22.174** Records of the select committee include correspondence with individuals, organizations, and Federal agencies. Some of the letters received are written in German or Polish, and these are accompanied by typewritten English translations. Other records include memorandums, depositions, affidavits, summaries of interviews, transcripts of hearings, exhibits, notes, and copies of the committee reports, as well as sound recordings and stenographer's notes of committee hearings in London and Frankfurt. A note among the records indicates that documents the committee obtained from the Department of State and the Department of War were returned to the agencies.

### *Special Committee To Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organizations (1952-54)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 60 ft. | 1952-54 | 82d-83d |

**22.175** Concern that certain educational and philanthropic tax-exempt organizations were using their resources for un-American and subversive activities led the House to establish the Select Committee to Investigate Foundations and Other Organizations on April 4, 1952, after an extended debate that included discussion of whether the investigation might be better undertaken by one of the House standing committees. E.E. Cox of Georgia was appointed chairman.

**22.176** The committee sent questionnaires to approximately 1,500 organizations, conducted personal interviews, corresponded with hundreds of additional individuals, held public hearings, received prepared statements, and studied various reference materials before January 1, 1953, when it submitted its final report lamenting that insufficient time had been allotted to accomplish its task (H. Rept. 2514, 82d. Cong., 2d Sess., Serial 11578).

**22.177** Despite continuing opposition, the investigation of tax exempt foundations was reinstituted on July 27, 1953, under the chairmanship of B. Carroll Reece of Tennessee. The revived committee's mandate was expanded to include an investigation to determine whether the foundations and organizations were using their resources for political purposes, propaganda, or attempts to influence legislation. The committee assembled and studied pertinent material, held 16 public hearings, and received additional statements for inclusion in the hearings transcripts before completing its work with the presentation of its final report on December 16, 1954 (H. Rept. 2681, 83d Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11748).

**22.178** Records of the select committee under Chairman Cox include replies and accompanying documents elicited by questionnaires sent to hundreds of foundations and other organizations. Also among the records are minutes of executive session meetings, correspondence, investigative reports and memorandums, press releases, witness statements, and informational materials relating to over one hundred foundations. Replies from the House Un-American Activities Committee to select committee inquiries concerning the loyalty of certain individuals and organizations are included. A large scrapbook of clippings from Chicago, New York, St. Louis, and Washington newspapers relates to the committee's activities. There are personnel records, including applications for employment with attachments, correspondence, and memorandums. A card index to certain records of the committee is also included.

**22.179** Records of the select committee under Chairman Reece consist of replies from foundations to committee queries regarding operating expenses and foundation grants in 1953 and preceding years, along with supplemental documents. There are also replies to questionnaires sent to publishers of learned journals, institutions of higher learning, and university presses regarding financial support received from foundations and other matters. Other records include transcripts of committee meetings and hearings, minutes, correspondence, memorandums, work papers, informational materials, and newspaper clippings. Statements from foundations and individuals presented in hearings or prepared for inclusion in the record, a draft of the rules of procedures to govern the committee's investigation, press releases, and progress reports are also included. Administrative records include payroll records, applications for employment and other personnel records, and vouchers. A card index of names of individuals was prepared for the study of interlocks among foundations and is among the records.

**22.180** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee on Communist Aggression (1953-54)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 22 ft. | 1953-54 | 83d |

**22.181** The House created the Baltic Committee, more formally known as the Select Committee to Investigate the Incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia into the U.S.S.R., on July 27, 1953 (83A-F20.1). Charles J. Kersten of Wisconsin was appointed chairman. In 1954, the committee's name was changed to the Select Committee on Communist Aggression when its investigative authority was broadened by H.Res. 438, 83d Cong., to include matters concerning "the subversion and destruction of free institutions and human liberties in all other areas controlled, directly or indirectly, by world communism."

**22.182** The committee held public hearings in the United States, Britain, and Germany, receiving the testimony of over 300 witnesses and approximately 1,500 exhibits. The identity of some of the witnesses was not disclosed, for fear of reprisals against relatives and friends in Communist nations. Other witnesses submitted written statements to the committee upon a pledge of anonymity.

**22.183** The committee was assisted by the Department of State, the United States Information Agency, the Committee for a Free Europe (Radio Free Europe), the Foreign Operations Administration, the Legislative Research Service of the Library of Congress, Georgetown University, and various non-governmental religious and ethnic organizations.

**22.184** The committee completed its study and investigation on December 31, 1954. Its findings were presented in 27 reports.

**22.185** Records of the committee include letters received commenting on the work of the committee, resolutions of ethnic groups commending the committee, and correspondence with Members of Congress and Federal agencies. There are translations of European newspaper articles regarding the committee, investigative memorandums, correspondence and memorandums of the chairman and staff, studies, and informational materials. Records relating to the committee hearings include correspondence, lists of questions for prospective witnesses, forms providing information about potential witnesses, eyewitness statements, exhibits, and stenographic transcripts of executive hearings. Photographs of committee activities and of scenes relating to the committee's subject of inquiry are included. Other records include copies of the committee's published hearings and reports, press releases, vouchers and other financial records, applications for employment, and mailing lists. There are three card indexes prepared by the committee relating to ethnic organizations and committee witnesses.

**22.186** Information in the records relates to Communist tactics and strategy. There are records pertaining to the Communist occupation of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, East Germany, the Balkans, and to the communization of the constituent Nations of the Soviet Union, especially the Ukraine. Other records, from the committee's Subcommittee on Latin America, relate to communist aggression in Latin America, especially Guatemala.

**22.187** There is a finding aid to the records of the committee.

### *Select Committee on Survivor Benefits (1954-55)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 ft. | 1954-55 | 83d-84th |

**22.188** Following World War II, benefit programs for survivors of military personnel and veterans multiplied to the extent that, by the mid-1950's, there were five separate and distinct programs dealing with almost half a million cases. This created an administrative maze that had to be negotiated before survivors could obtain the benefits to which they were entitled. In order to simplify the application process and eliminate duplication of effort, Congress decided to undertake a study of the survivor benefit programs and prepare new legislation. Because four standing committees had jurisdiction over the five existing survivor benefit programs, the House chose to establish the Select Committee on Survivor Benefits on August 4, 1954, to undertake the study and to draft the legislation.

**22.189** For its staff, the committee relied on 10 experts from five Federal agencies. The committee held

28 executive sessions or hearings and 29 public hearings at which representatives of every major veterans organization were invited to testify. The result was the Servicemen's and Veterans' Survivor Benefits Act (Public Law 84-881).

**22.190** Records of the committee include transcripts of public and executive hearings, committee minutes, copies of the committee report, the conference report on the survivor benefits legislation, and legislative proposals relating to the committee and its work.

***Select Committee on Export Control (1961-62)***

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 5 ft. | 1961-62 | 87th |

**22.191** The Export Control Act of 1949 (Public Law 86-464) declared it to be U.S. policy to use export controls to protect the domestic economy from scarcity and inflation, to further U.S. foreign policy, and to protect national security. Concern over the large number of licenses granted for exporting goods to Communist countries prompted the House, on September 7, 1961, to establish the Select Committee on Export Control to inquire into the administration, operation, and enforcement of the Export Control Act of 1949 and related acts.

**22.192** As a result of its study, the select committee declared that it had "found glaring instances where we have economically strengthened countries in the Soviet bloc" and offered suggestions and recommendations to tighten the export control program (H. Rept. 1753, 87th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 12430).

**22.193** Records of the committee include correspondence regarding the administration of the committee, correspondence with Federal departments, transcripts of hearings, memorandums, mailing lists, speeches, press releases, and vouchers. Copies of the committee report and legislative material on the Export Control Act of 1949 also are included.

***Select Committee on Government Research (1963-65)***

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 46 ft. | 1963-64 | 88th |

**22.194** By FY 1965, the Federal Government was spending approximately $15 billion annually on research and development, a sum accounting for over 15 percent of the total Federal budget. The authorizations and appropriations for the research and development programs had fallen under the jurisdiction of a number of standing committees, which led to the perceived need for an overview of the interrelations of the research and development programs of the various Federal departments and agencies. On September 11, 1963, the House authorized a select committee to undertake the task. Carl Elliott of Alabama served as chairman for the committee, which was known as the Select Committee on Government Research (88 GR).

**22.195** The committee began its work by establishing working relationships with the 9 Federal departments and 12 agencies that conducted research and development. In addition, the committee established a group of specialists from education, industry, and government to serve as a general advisory committee. The committee held hearings from November 1963 to January 1964 at which 55 scientists and administrators testified and 25 others submitted written statements. The committee then prepared studies of 10 specific aspects of the topic, including grants administration, manpower, Federal facilities, documentation and dissemination of results, student assistance, program impact, contract policies and procedures, interagency coordination, and national goals and priorities. To accomplish this task, the committee sent questionnaires and forms to the appropriate governmental and nongovernmental entities and established an advisory panel for each of the studies.

**22.196** Records of the committee include minutes, correspondence, memorandums, papers of the general advisory committee, transcripts of hearings, press releases, and personnel and other administrative records. Also included are computer punch cards and printouts, copies of committee publications, and numerous pamphlets regarding commercial and governmental activities. There are memorandums, correspondence, printed materials, trip reports, and notes relating to committee field trips. Records regarding Federal departments and agencies include annual reports and other publications, memorandums of meetings, newspaper clippings, correspondence, prepared statements offered by governmental officials at committee hearings, and work papers. There is extensive material collected during the various studies undertaken by the committee.

### *Select Committee on Standards and Conduct (1966)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 in. | 1966 | 89th |

**22.197** The establishment of a House Select Committee on Standards and Conduct (89 S&C) was one of the recommendations contained in the September 1966 final report of the Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress.[12] Accordingly, the select committee was established on October 19, 1966. The resolution establishing the select committee vested it with discretionary authority to recommend rules for insuring proper standards of conduct by House Members and employees and to report violations to proper authorities, but it did not authorize the select committee to receive and investigate specific complaints and recommend disciplinary action. Charles E. Bennett of Florida was appointed chairman. Only two formal meetings of the committee were held, on October 20 and November 28. Committee staff met weekly during the period.

**22.198** Records include a copy of the committee report, the summary staff report, transcripts of committee meetings, correspondence, notes, newspaper clippings, press releases, and vouchers.

### *Select Committee Pursuant to House Resolution 1, 90th Congress, 1st session (1967)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 8 ft. | 1967 | 90th |

**22.199** During 1965 and 1966 (89th Cong.), Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of the 18th Congressional District of New York, chairman of the House Committee on Education and Labor, became the target of widespread congressional and public criticism for contemptuous conduct toward the courts of New York and misconduct in office. There were charges that Powell misused both travel funds and his clerk-hire authority. A special subcommittee of the Committee on House Administration investigated these charges.

**22.200** Powell was reelected to the 90th Congress by a large majority of his constituency in November 1966. Before the organization of the 90th Congress, however, the caucus of Democrat Members-elect voted to remove Powell from his chairmanship. When it met on January 10, 1967, Congress adopted H.Res. 1, barring Powell from being sworn in and seated in the 90th Congress pending the report of a special committee investigation and House determination. Emanuel Celler of New York was appointed chairman of the committee.

**22.201** The committee held hearings in February. Powell was present only on the first day and declined to testify. The committee had access to the hearings, exhibits, and report of the subcommittee investigation during the previous Congress. Audits of expenditures of the Committee on Education and Labor and investigations of New York court records and other sources were undertaken by the select committee. The select committee presented its report on February 23, 1967, recommending that Powell be sworn in as a Member of the 90th Congress, then immediately censured before the bar of the House, fined, and stripped of his seniority. If Powell failed to appear to take the oath of office by March 13, the seat should be declared vacant.

**22.202** Records consist mainly of multiple copies of the committee publications and unanswered mail. There are documents designated as the files of the minority counsel, including memorandums, correspondence, subpoenas, and briefs and other legal documents relating to the proceedings in New York. A number of extracts from *Hind's Precedents* and *Cannon's Precedents* are also among the records, as well as newspaper clippings, copies of magazine articles, a copy of Ronald L. Goldfarb's *The Contempt Power* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1963), and a 33 ⅓ RPM January 1967 recording of Powell entitled "Keep the Faith, Baby": Adam Clayton Powell's Message to the World (Jubilee Records).

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[12] For information on the records of the Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress, see Chapter 23.

### *Special Committees to investigate Campaign Expenditures*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 81 ft. | 1928, 1944-64 | 70th, 79th-88th |

**22.203** On May 29, 1928, the House established the Special Committee to Investigate Campaign Expenditures to consider election disputes and charges of electoral fraud and excess campaign expenditures that might arise from the upcoming Presidential and congressional campaigns (70A-F33.1). Similar select committees became regular features of each election year beginning in 1944 (78A-F41.1, 80A-F19.1, 83A-F19.1, 84A-F18.1, 85A-F18.1, 86A-F18.1, 87A-F17.1, 88 ICE). The committees were authorized to investigate campaign contributions and expenditures in both the primary and general election contests, violations of Federal election laws, and other matters that might aid the House in drafting any necessary remedial legislation or in deciding contests regarding the right to a seat in the House of Representatives.

**22.204** The committees furnished candidates with information on Federal election laws. They collected campaign finance information, either directly from candidates, political parties, congressional campaign committees, and others by means of questionnaires and circular letters, or from reports and statements submitted by political organizations and candidates to the House Clerk or State officials. The committees also received complaints regarding allegations of unfair campaign practices, fraudulent vote counting, or other election misdeeds and investigated those with sufficient facts to establish prima facie cases. The committees sent representatives to the congressional districts involved in the dispute to conduct interviews, examine evidence, and collect information. On occasion, the special committees held public hearings on the disputes in Washington or in the districts involved. The special committees also undertook studies of Federal, State, and local statutes regulating elections.

**22.205** For the 1928 committee, there are hearings transcripts, exhibits, correspondence, and newspaper clippings. There are no records of the special committees established to deal with the elections between 1930 and 1942.

**22.206** Records exist for each of the campaign expenditure committees from 1944 to 1964 and include correspondence with candidates, political groups, governmental officials, and the public. There are election complaints, memorandums, minutes, investigative files regarding complaints, transcripts of testimony, exhibits, affidavits of interviewees, completed questionnaires, notes, statistical worksheets, and drafts of committee reports. Among the materials received by the committees are correspondence obtained from files of organizations, information submitted by candidates, reports to the Clerks of the House and Senate from the Democratic National Committee, campaign literature, tally sheets and recount documents, and certain records of the Police Department of New York City. Administrative records include press releases, subpoenas, stenographer's notebooks, personnel records, and vouchers. There are various published materials, including copies of committee publications, printed compilations of elections laws, newspaper clippings, and other materials collected for informational purposes.

**22.207** The records pertain to election laws, specific electoral contests, and other matters such as the Anti-Nazi League and the use of the franking privilege for mailing campaign literature.

**22.208** There are finding aids available regarding records of the committees that dealt with the elections of 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1958, 1960, and 1962.

# Chapter 23

# RECORDS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS
## 1789–1968

*This photo, taken when the magazine of the Destroyer USS Shaw exploded during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, was submitted as an exhibit in the hearings of the Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack. The joint committee collected an enormous amount of information and published a large part of the data in 39 volumes of printed hearings. The original of the photograph is in the still pictures archives (80G-32573).*

# CHAPTER 23

## RECORDS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS, 1789-1968

### Introduction

**23.1** This chapter describes the records comprising Record Group 128, Records of Joint Committees of Congress. Joint committees are committees whose membership is drawn from both the House of Representatives and the Senate. When the records of the House of Representatives and the Senate were initially transferred to the National Archives, the decision was made to unite the identifiable records of joint committees in a single, distinct record group but to maintain the records in two collections within the record group.

**23.2** The House collection includes those records of joint committees that were transferred to the National Archives by the House of Representatives, and the Senate collection contains those transferred by the Senate. Certain joint committees are represented in only one of the collections, while records of other committees may be found in both the House and Senate collections. Sometimes copies of the same document are found in both collections. There is no general rule that can be applied to explain these discrepancies. Neither is there any clear distinction between the collections regarding types of documents or subjects considered. For these reasons, this chapter considers the records of joint committees as a whole. Researchers should note, however, that access to the House collection is governed by the standard rules governing access to House records, while the Senate access provisions apply to the Senate collection. Information regarding access is provided in Chapter 1.

**23.3** There are no assigned file numbers for the committees. The lack of file numbers for the records of individual and distinctive modern joint committees does not constitute any particular difficulty. The records are arranged by committee, and the relatively large quantity of material ensures that they are identifiable. Earlier committees, however, may be represented by only one document found in records that are arranged by Congress and only thereunder by committee. For these earlier committees, the chapter uses reference notations that designate either the House collection (H.C.) or the Senate collection (S.C.), followed by the number of the Congress under which the records can be found. "H.C. 45," for example, indicates the records may be found in the House collection for the 45th Congress.

**23.4** There is a tremendous range in the amount and type of documentation available regarding individual joint committees. Records from over 160 joint committees[1] are available for the entire period from 1789 to the Civil War in both the House and Senate collections, but they comprise less than 4 feet. The records of the 20th-century Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, on the other hand, total 406 feet. Because of the discrepancy in the amount and kinds of material relating to individual joint committees, this chapter describes the records in two parts. The first part of the chapter presents an overview of the records of joint committees whose records are very sparse, dating generally from the 18th and 19th centuries. In the second part of the chapter, committees with more substantial records, most of which date from the 20th century, are discussed individually in chronological order by date of creation.

**23.5** The two Houses have relied on joint committees to undertake a wide variety of assignments involving representational, administrative, investigative, oversight, and legislative duties. For many of these committees, no unpublished records remain. Records of relatively perfunctory representational joint committees, as well as conference committees, appear among records of the 18th and 19th-century Congresses. Though these types of committees continue

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[1] This figure includes 73 conference committees.

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to be used today, no records exist for them among 20th-century joint committee records.

**23.6** Certain records of RG 233 (Records of the U.S. House of Representatives) and RG 46 (Records of the U.S. Senate) are closely related to records described in this chapter. There are various reasons for this, which a few examples may explain. Many 20th-century joint committees drew their members exclusively from the membership of certain standing committees. An example is the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation, which was composed of members of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance. In contrast, sometimes (especially in the 18th and 19th centuries) the House members and Senate members of a joint committee would function autonomously as committees in their own chambers for certain purposes. For many years, for example, this was true of the Joint Committee on the Library, but that is by no means an isolated example. The committee system in Congress is now defined quite clearly, but that is a relatively recent development. Because of the more fluid committee system and because the records of joint committees were previously interspersed among the records of the House and the Senate, the separation of the records to form RG 128 was sometimes inexact. Original manuscripts of several of the reports of the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War, for example, are among Senate records (SEN 37A-D1, SEN 38A-D1). Certain records of the House Select Committee on Reconstruction that was appointed on July 3, 1867, on the other hand, are among the joint committee records (H.C. 40, 41).

**23.7** Some of the records described in this chapter are published in *American State Papers*, the *Congressional Serial Set*, or as printed hearings or committee prints. For information on such publications and available indexes, see Chapter 1.

**23.8** The Joint Commission on the Ford's Theater Disaster and the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, while they were not called joint committees, nevertheless drew their membership entirely from Congress and reported to it. For this reason, their records are in RG 128 and are described here.

## PART ONE: OVERVIEW OF THE RECORDS OF CERTAIN JOINT COMMITTEES

*Records of the Joint Committees of Congress, 1st-52d Congresses (1789-1893)*

| Collection | Number of Committees | Volume |
|---|---|---|
| House | 31 committees | 2 ft. |
| Senate | 142 committees | 4 ft. |
| TOTAL: | 173 committees | 4 ft. |

**23.9** Joint committees date from the earliest days of Congress. On April 9, 1789, 3 days after the United States Congress first achieved a quorum of both Houses, the House of Representatives received word that the Senate had appointed a committee to confer with a House committee "in preparing a system of rules to govern the two Houses in cases of conference, and to regulate the appointment of Chaplains" (House Journal, 1st Cong., 1st sess., pp. 11-12). The House likewise appointed a committee and, within a week, the two groups met and agreed to a report, which read in part:

> That in every case of an amendment to a bill agreed to in one House, and dissented to in the other, if either House shall request a conference, and appoint a committee for that purpose, and the other House shall also appoint a committee to confer, such committees shall, at a convenient hour, to be agreed on by their Chairmen, meet in the conference chamber, and state to each other, verbally or in writing, as either shall chuse, the reasons of their respective Houses for and against the amendment, and confer freely thereon.

Other than the Senator and two Representatives who were appointed to sit at the clerk's table to tally the votes of the electoral college, this was the first joint committee of Congress. The committee's manuscript report is among the records in RG 128 (S.C. 1).

**23.10** Most of the records of early joint committees are committee reports. The reports are usually in manuscript form, though they are sometimes printed, and they often contain strikeouts or inserts. Occasionally, the report will have a notation to indicate House or Senate action on the report. In the case of the reports from the joint committee dealing with newspapers for Members of Congress and with printing arrangements, the House disagreed to the conference report on the newspaper issue and amended the report concerning printing. An extract of the House Journal detailing these actions was sent to the Senate. That document is filed with the committee reports and includes a notation showing the Senate's response (S.C. 1). Other documents appearing occasionally among the early records include resolutions to establish a particular committee and orders appointing committee members.

**23.11** Many joint committees of the early Congresses were established to consider administrative or housekeeping details for Congress. Some such assignments were unique, such as that of the joint committee charged with viewing the rooms in city hall that had been offered to Congress and deciding on whether they would be needed (S.C. 1). Other assignments were recurring. There are records in several Congresses, for example, relating to committees on the business necessary to be finished prior to recess or adjournment. The reports of these committees usually consist of lists of bills by categories: those that have passed the House, those that have passed the Senate, those in committee in the House, and so forth (H.C. 11, 12; S.C. 1, 2).

**23.12** Records of committees to examine votes for President and Vice President and records of committees to notify the President of his election appear regularly among the records. The records of these two types of committees tend to be quite predictable, but this is not always the case. In 1837, in response to certain allegations in the press, the committee that examined the votes was also instructed to investigate whether there was any violation of the constitutional prohibition that "no senator or representative, or person holding an office of trust or profit under the United States, shall be appointed an elector" (article II, section 1). The records include lists of electors, letters from the various Cabinet officials in response to committee inquiries regarding the matter, and the committee report (S.C. 24).

**23.13** In 1849, the joint committee appointed to inform the Whig candidate Zachary Taylor of his election to the Presidency noted that Taylor, in response to the committee's message, alluded to the fact that the committee chairman "represented a public body, a majority of whom was opposed in political opinion, to the President Elect." He "expressed an ardent wish that he might be able, in any degree, to assuage the fierceness of party, or temper with moderation the conflicts of those who are only divided as to the means of securing the public welfare" (H.C. 30).

**23.14** There are records for joint committees that had more unique mandates, including committees that focused on a particular event or issue, such as George Washington's death (S.C. 6) or the depressed state of American shipbuilding (S.C. 40, 47). Others studied a subject, such as yellow fever and cholera (S.C. 45), or investigated some problem, such as charges of wrongdoing in the government of the District of Columbia (S.C. 43). The problems revealed in the D.C. investigation led to a decision to change the form of government there. Another joint committee was appointed to draft a bill providing the framework for the government, and a few records of that committee are available (S.C. 44).

**23.15** While the single type of document most likely to be among the records of any joint committee is a committee report, other types of documents occasionally appearing include letters, exhibits, minutes, and printed reference materials. There is a February 1832 letter from the venerable Chief Justice John Marshall regretfully declining an invitation to deliver an oration in honor of the centennial of Washington's birth and explaining that, though flattered by the request, his voice had "become so weak as to be almost inaudible even in a room not unusually large. In the open air it could not be heard by those nearest" to him (H.C. 22). An inventory of the furniture and other property in possession of the President in February 1801 contains the suggestion that, since the President planned to leave Washington early on the morning of March 4, someone might be designated to spend the night of March 3 at the President's House in order to receive the keys the next morning (S.C. 6). A letter of February 17, 1868, from the Director of the Bureau of Statistics provides a historical and technical review relating to the revenue collected on distilled spirits (H.C. 40).

**23.16** The records of some joint committees include a wide variety of documents, as is the case with an 1874 committee dealing with the District of Columbia. The committee resulted from a memorial of certain residents of the District of Columbia, charging that unlawful contracts had been let and unlawful assessments and taxes had been levied. Some documents among the records were submitted by the counsel representing the memorialists, such as lists of persons to be subpoenaed and papers indicating what would be proved by calling individual witnesses. Other records include receipts, assessor's notices, transcripts of correspondence and other papers of the Board of Public Works, and reports on the work done on various projects in the District, as well as memorials of citizens, contractors, and the governor of the District of Columbia (S.C. 43).

### *Conference Committees*

**23.17** When bills pass the House and Senate in different forms, conference committees may be appointed to resolve the differences. Conference committees are always select and expire when their reports are acted upon by the two Houses. The members, who are known as conferees or managers, are usually drawn from the committees that considered the bill in the two Houses. Conference committees are distinctive in that the managers from each House vote as a unit while the members of other joint committees cast individual votes.[2]

**23.18** Conference committees usually are documented only by their reports. The Senate collection includes reports of certain conference committees through 1843.[3] Included are the reports of the conference committees on the acts that led to the Whiskey Rebellion (S.C. 1), banned the importation of slaves to the United States beginning in 1808 (S.C. 9), and established the Tariff of 1824 (S.C. 18). There is also the manuscript report of the conference committee that finally reached the Missouri Compromise (S.C. 16).

**23.19** There is only one conference committee report among the House collection. It is the February 12, 1818, report of the managers appointed by the House regarding the military appropriations bill for 1818. The conference did not resolve the disagreement between the Houses. The report of the House members outlines in some detail the House objections to the Senate amendment regarding the pay of brevet officers, as well as the Senate's arguments and the attempts at compromise (H.C. 15).

## Committees relating to the Civil War and Reconstruction (1861-73)

**23.20** The special demands placed on the Federal Government by the Civil War and its aftermath led to the establishment of several joint committees. Few unpublished records of these committees are found in RG 128, however.

**23.21** The Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War was established on December 9, 1861, at the instigation of Senator Zachariah Chandler of Ohio and continued until May 1865. Senator Benjamin F. Wade of Ohio served as chairman. During the committee's existence, it held 272 meetings and received testimony in Washington and at other locations, often from military officers. Though the committee met and held hearings in secrecy, the testimony and related exhibits were published in the numerous committee reports of its investigations. The records include the original manuscripts of certain postwar reports that the committee received from general officers. There are also transcripts of testimony and accounting records regarding the military administration of Alexandria, VA (S.C. 38).

**23.22** On December 13, 1865, the two houses reached agreement on an amended version of a House concurrent resolution introduced by Representative Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania to establish a joint committee of 15 members known as the Joint Committee on Reconstruction to "inquire into the condition of the States which formed the so-called Confederate States of America, and report whether they, or any of them, are entitled to be represented in either house of Congress." Senator William Pitt Fessenden of Maine served as chairman. The joint committee divided into four subcommittees to hear testimony and gather evidence regarding the situation in each of four groups of Southern States. In all, 144 witnesses were called to testify. The records contain part of the committee report, as well as a few petitions concerning restoration of the former Confederate states to representation in Congress. The petitions are from Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. There is also a resolution of the legislature of New York regarding this issue and advocating equality of suffrage in the District of Columbia for all adult males (H.C. 39; S.C. 39).

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[2] Asher C. Hinds, *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907), vol. IV, pp. 879-80; vol. V, p. 685.

[3] Later conference reports are filled with engrossed bills (see Chapter 24). In rare instances, papers relating to conferences may be found among committee papers or bill files.

**23.23** The Joint Committee on Reconstruction was not revived in the next Congress. The House of Representatives, however, established its own Select Committee on Reconstruction on July 3, 1867. Records of the House select committee are among RG 128 and include the resolution instructing the committee to investigate Ku Klux Klan activities. There are also letters, petitions, and a memorial from Tennessee detailing the situation in that State. They indicate that, under the new constitution, former rebels were regaining control of the government and intimidating or attacking supporters of the Union and blacks. Also among the records are the printed proceedings of a convention at Nashville on February 16, 1870, aimed at revitalizing and reorganizing the Republican Party in Tennessee.

**23.24** Concern about Ku Klux Klan activities led to establishment of another Joint Committee to Inquire into the Condition of the Late Insurrectionary States on April 17, 1871. A portion of the committee's minute book, covering the period from February 10 to 19, 1872, is among the records.

## PART TWO: RECORDS OF INDIVIDUAL JOINT COMMITTEES

### *Joint Committee on the Library (1806-1968)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 7 ft | 1806-1962 | 9th-90th |

**23.25** On April 24, 1800, under an act to make further provision for the removal and accommodation of the Government of the United States (2 Stat. 55), $5000 was appropriated to purchase books for the use of Congress and to prepare an "apartment" for them in the Capitol. The act specified that the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House were to make the purchase under the direction of a joint committee of both Houses and place the books in one apartment for the use of both Houses, "according to such regulations as the committee aforesaid shall devise and establish."

**23.26** The joint committee was appointed within a week, but no further reference to it appears in either the House or Senate Journal or the Annals of Congress. The Secretary did proceed with the purchase, however, because, in December 1801, another joint select committee was appointed "to take into consideration a statement made by the Secretary of the Senate, respecting books and maps purchased pursuant to a late act of Congress, and to make report respecting the future arrangement of the same." On December 21, the committee submitted its report, which indicated the room in which the books and maps would be placed, described the cases to be used for them, and specified loan policies and procedures, hours of operation, and other details. A manuscript copy of the report is among the records (H.C. 7).[4]

**23.27** The Joint Committee on the Library became a standing committee by an act of February 21, 1806 (2 Stat. 350), which established an annual appropriation for the purchase of books for Congress under the direction of a joint committee "to be appointed every session of Congress, during the continuance of this appropriation." In time, the committee's jurisdiction expanded beyond its original, narrow focus to include matters relating to the Botanic Garden, the Smithsonian Institution, works of art in the Capitol, and other subjects.

**23.28** Records of the Joint Committee on the Library are available, in either the House or the Senate collection, for most Congresses before 1900 and infrequently thereafter. The records include manuscript committee reports, minutes of committee meetings, petitions and memorials, correspondence, bills, and resolutions on assorted topics.

**23.29** Some of the records reflect the historical development of the Library. There are a few annual reports of the Librarian of Congress, ranging from one dated April 11, 1807, to one for the fiscal year ending in 1962 (S.C. 10; H.C. 88-90). The earliest reports list the books donated to the library during the preceding year and indicate the donor of each. From the period immediately following the burning of the Capitol during the War of 1812, there is a letter from Samuel H. Smith, agent for Thomas Jefferson, offering to sell Jefferson's library to Congress. In addition, three committee reports among the records deal with this transaction (S.C. 13). A report from January 1816 addressed the question of where to house the books while Congress met in its temporary quarters (S.C. 14).

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[4] From markings on the document, it is clear that this copy of the committee's report was used in the preparation of *American State Papers*. The report is published there in *Miscellaneous*, vol. 1, p. 253, no. 149. See para. 23.30 for information on the role of the Clerk of the House and Secretary of the Senate in the publication of *American State Papers*.

**23.30** Many of the letters and memorials among the records are from publishers seeking financial support from Congress for specific publications designed to inform the public about history or government. Some of the publications, such as *Statutes At Large* and the *Dictionary of the United States Congress*, developed into notable series of reference works (H.C. 28, 35). There are various papers relating to the publication of *American State Papers* by Gales and Seaton,[5] including a report of the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House detailing their activities in selecting and transcribing the congressional documents that were to appear in the publication (H.C. 22). Certain reports, memorials, and letters deal with the purchase or publication of personal papers, including those of James Madison (S.C. 25), Alexander Hamilton (S.C. 29, 30), Thomas Jefferson (S.C. 28; H.C. 29), and General Nathanael Greene (H.C. 32).

**23.31** There are memorials and petitions relating to the dissemination of compilations of laws, congressional publications, and books. The New York Chamber of Commerce and the New York Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb (H.C. 23, 28) were among the groups that asked Congress to donate books or publications to their libraries. Other memorials, such as the one from William Brent, Jr., of Virginia, called for systematic distribution of such materials to all court houses, schools, or other entities (H.C. 25). Regular and systematic distribution of laws of the United States did occur, in fact, as a result of an act of April 20, 1818. The communication from Secretary of State Henry Clay that is attached to the joint committee's report of May 16, 1828 (H.C. 20), explained that no State received fewer than 110 copies of the annual publication of acts of Congress passed at the preceding session.

**23.32** Alexandre Vattemare, a French citizen and elector of the Department of the Seine and Oise, was interested in an even wider distribution of printed materials. He worked for years to establish an international system of exchange of government publications and of scientific and learned materials. Included among the records are memorials, letters, reports, and printed materials prepared by Vattemare (S.C. 26, 28, 30, 31; H.C. 26, 30). As a result of Vattemare's efforts, on June 26, 1848, Congress passed an act to regulate exchanges (9 Stat. 240), and Vattemare himself was appointed as the agent. A manuscript copy of his report on the exchanges is among the records (S.C. 31), as well as two letters of Chief Justice Roger B. Taney regarding certain exchanges with the French Government (S.C. 28).

**23.33** The 19th century witnessed widespread interest in the quest for scientific knowledge, and this is reflected in the unprecedented and unsolicited bequest of James Smithson, a wealthy Englishman who died in 1829. Under the terms of the will, Smithson's $500,000 estate was given to the United States, "to found, at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Accordingly, on August 10, 1846, Congress created the Smithsonian Institution. Joint committee documents relating to the Smithsonian include petitions (H.C. 28-33), a committee report that includes a letter from Secretary of the Smithsonian Joseph Henry (H.C. 33), and letters regarding the international documents exchange program (S.C. 49).[6]

**23.34** An interest in science is also evident in petitions from organizations such as the American Statistical Association (S.C. 28) and the American Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge (S.C. 25). The National Institute for the Promotion of Science, a leading contender for receiving grants from the Smithson bequest, figures in several joint committee documents, including a committee report that reviews its history, organization, and extensive collections (S.C. 28; H.C. 28, 29).

**23.35** From 1838 to 1842, the Government-sponsored United States Exploring Expedition traveled to South America, Antarctica, the South Pacific, and Oregon Territory under the command of Lt. Charles Wilkes. Its scientists and crew charted and surveyed unknown waters and terrain, made meteorological and geological observations, and amassed significant collections of specimens and artifacts. The collections of the exploring expedition, and Government efforts to publish its findings, are discussed in the records (S.C. 29; H.C. 28, 33, 34). A petition from expedition naturalist Titian Peale details the personal articles that he lost when the *U.S.S. Peacock* sank as the expedition was entering the Columbia River (H.C. 33).

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[5] See Chapter 1 for information on this publication and other reference works regarding Congress and its history.

[6] See Chapter 22 for information on records of the House Select Committee on the Smithsonian bequest, including a minute book that contains joint committee minutes.

**23.36** Artists and their work appear regularly as topics among the records of the Joint Committee on the Library because of the committee's role in approving and purchasing artwork for the Capitol and because of its jurisdiction over the Smithsonian. Among the documents is a letter from sculptor Horatio Greenough defending his controversial statue of George Washington, seated and draped in a classical manner, and asking that it be moved outside to a location on the Capitol Grounds (S.C. 27). There are various letters advocating the purchase of Gilbert Stuart's portraits of the first five Presidents that were on display in the Capitol, including some reminiscences of the painter at work on them (S.C. 33). Memorials and petitions, printed press excerpts, letters, committee reports, and a descriptive catalog are among the materials relating to George Catlin's collection of 300 portraits, 200 other paintings, and writings relating to his travels among 48 tribes of North American Indians (H.C. 29; S.C. 30). Catlin's efforts to sell the collection to the United States for the Smithsonian Institution's art gallery eventually failed by one vote in the 32d Congress.

**23.37** The 20th-century records of the joint committee that are among RG 128 are relatively limited. They include committee minutes, 1912-13 and 1926-33, regarding artwork in the Capitol, the Botanic Garden, memorial commissions, and certain historical monuments and markers in the District of Columbia and elsewhere (S.C. 62 and bound volume 69th-72d Cong.). Correspondence, petitions, minutes, transcripts of hearings, memoranda, printed materials, and other papers are available for the years 1959-68. These dealt with numerous subjects, including the James Madison Memorial Building, facilities for the use of individual scholars, loans of books to Members of Congress and their staff, a Brookings Institution survey of Federal departmental libraries, and codification of Federal statutes regarding the Library of Congress (H.C. 88-90).

**23.38** Related records are in RG 233 and RG 46. Until 1947, the members of the Joint Committee on the Library comprised separate standing committees in each of the Houses they represented.[7] Records of the House Committee on the Library date from 1857 and are in RG 233, while records of the Senate Committee on the Library dating from 1873 are in RG 46. In contrast to the joint committee's records, the records of the separate standing committees are more complete for the 20th century.

### *Joint Committee on Printing (1846-1968)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 98 ft | 1848-1968 | 30th-90th |

**23.39** Among the records of the First Congress is a May 1789 report from a joint committee established in part to receive proposals for printing the acts and other proceedings of Congress (S.C. 1). Congress has traditionally issued numerous publications regarding its own activities, as well as the operation of executive agencies and other matters. During the 19th century, for example, the annual reports of executive Departments were published as congressional documents.

**23.40** Until 1819 public printing, as it was called, was contracted out to the lowest bidder. In that year, however, a resolution (3 Stat. 538) was passed setting fixed rates of compensation for the printing and specifying that each House would elect a printer to execute its work during the next Congress. This system was followed until 1846 when, by the terms of a joint resolution (9 Stat. 113), Congress reverted to the lowest bid system and established the Joint Committee on Printing with power to adopt the necessary measures "to remedy any neglect or delay on the part of the contractor to execute the work ordered by Congress, . . . or to refuse the work altogether, should it be inferior to the standard." The committee was also directed to audit all printing accounts. The resolution further specified that any motion to print extra copies of an item should be referred for consideration and a report to the members of the printing committee of the House where the motion occurred. Over the years, the joint committee has been assigned a variety of additional administrative functions relating to the general supervision of Government printing.

**23.41** The bulk of the records are among the Senate collection and date from 1900 to 1968. They consist mainly of proposals submitted to the Joint Committee on Public Printing by private companies in response to requests for bids to furnish paper to the Federal Government during the coming fiscal year. The first such documents relate to the year from March 1900 to February 1901. There are also ledgers and charts showing a comparison of the bids.

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[7] After the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946, members of the Joint Committee on the Library were drawn from the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration and the House Committee on House Administration.

**23.42** There are a few records dating from the first 50 years of the joint committee. The earliest record is a committee report of June 14, 1848, arising from an apparent misunderstanding on the part of the printing firm of Wendell and Van Benthuysen who held the printing contract from Congress, about whether the firm was promised certain binding jobs as part of the contract. A petition from the firm, dated a year later, seeks compensation for losses incurred in the execution of the contracts (H.C. 30). Other private printers also appealed to Congress for relief in connection with congressional printing. In a March 1878 petition, Franklin Rives and other proprietors of the *Congressional Globe*, noting that their business had suffered substantially because Congress had directed the public printer to undertake publication of congressional proceedings, asked Congress to purchase the plates and back volumes that they had in their inventory (H.C. 45).

**23.43** In April 1878, H.R. 4292, a bill to reduce the expense of the public printing and binding, was introduced by Representative Otho R. Singleton of Mississippi, chairman of the House Committee on Printing. A variety of documents relate to this measure. Before the bill was introduced, letters were sent to heads of Federal agencies and other officials soliciting information concerning what congressional documents they received, how they were used, how many copies were absolutely necessary for Department business, what the Government Printing Office (GPO) printed for the departments, and whether forms and other supplies could be ordered several months in advance. Replies to the inquiries are among the records, as well as the report of an interdepartmental group that considered how Government documents might be supplied to Departments more efficiently and economically. Because H.R. 4292 would have abolished virtually all Federal printing offices and binderies except the GPO, the War Department submitted documents to the committee asking permission to continue certain printing operations in the Department. There is, accordingly, material relating to the office that compiled the records of the Civil War, including samples of correspondence concerning the acquisition and publication of Confederate records (H.C. 45).

**23.44** In order to institute paper standards for the GPO, the joint committee on August 15, 1911, established the Paper Specifications Committee, comprised of representatives of the Bureau of Standards, Bureau of Chemistry, and the Government Printing Office, as well as the two clerks and the inspector of the Joint Committee on Printing. The Paper Specifications Committee was directed to prepare standard specifications and samples of paper for submission to the joint committee, along with recommendations for a uniform method of testing paper for the Government. There are notes, memorandums, correspondence, minutes, and annual reports of the Paper Specifications Committee (S.C. 62, 63). The transcript of a joint committee hearing of January 4, 1930, regarding paper specifications is included, as well as a few paper and board samples and copies of trade journals of the paper industry (S.C. 60, 62, 65). There also are GPO monthly reports regarding authorities granted to Federal agencies to purchase work from commercial sources (S.C. 76).

**23.45** The records of the joint committee among the House collection are scanty and begin in 1934. They include correspondence, printed materials, staff reports, clippings, minutes, and memorandums. Among the subjects considered are the establishment of the Federal Register, the rule regarding insertion of material in the *Congressional Record* that is not spoken on the floor (H.C. 73), and contracts.

### *Joint Committee on the Disposition of Useless Papers (1889-1970)*[8]

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 53 ft | 1893-1966 | 53rd-89th |

**23.46** In March 1887, the Senate established a select committee to examine and analyze the methods and work of the executive Departments and determine the causes of alleged delays in transacting the public business. The committee proceeded by addressing letters of inquiry to the heads of the Departments. The select committee submitted its report on March 8, 1888 (S. Rept. 507, 50th Cong., 1st sess., Serial

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[8] The name changed to Joint Committee on Disposition of Executive Papers on April 9, 1935.

2521), including the responses from the Departments. The report noted that, during the course of the committee's investigation in the various Departments, "it became manifest that there were large masses of files of papers, which have been accumulating for a long series of years and now occupy much room." The committee noted that many of the papers were not used for current business and had neither permanent value nor historical interest. Further investigation revealed that statutes authorizing disposal of the unneeded, nonpermanent papers existed only for the post office and the office of the auditor for the Post Office Department. Accordingly, the committee proposed legislation to provide a system of disposition of such papers throughout the Federal Departments.

**23.47** On February 16, 1889, an act was approved to authorize and provide for the disposition of useless papers in the executive departments (25 Stat. 672). Under its provisions, heads of Governmental Departments that had an "accumulation of files of papers, which are not needed or useful in the transaction of the current business . . . and have no permanent value or historical interest" were instructed to send a report to Congress regarding the papers. When Congress received the report, a joint committee would be appointed to consider and report on it.

**23.48** The records consist primarily of transmittal letters to Congress accompanied by lists of records proposed for destruction. The earliest example is the letter of September 11, 1893, from the Postmaster General asking for the appointment of a joint committee to authorize disposal of records of the Post Office that were no longer useful (S.C. 53). Changes in the procedures are reflected in the documents. The early transmittal letters came from the heads of the Departments that created or received the papers. At first, the disposition recommendations were solely the responsibility of those Departments. Executive Order 1499 of March 16, 1912, however, required that lists had to be submitted to the Librarian of Congress and evaluated for historical interest before being referred to Congress. This process is reflected in the transmittal letters. Later, in accordance with 1934 amendments, the newly established National Archives, rather than the Library of Congress, assumed the review responsibility. Beginning in 1936, the actual transmittal came from the Archivist of the United States.

**23.49** Also among the records are various committee reports regarding disposition of the records appearing on the lists, as well as the first annual report of the National Archives (for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1935) and the transcript and minutes of the first meeting (February 10, 1936) of the National Archives Council (S.C. 74).

### *Joint Commission on the Ford's Theater Disaster (1894-1897)*

|  | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 3 in | 1894-1897 | 53rd-54th |

**23.50** On June 9, 1893, while 490 clerks of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department were working at their offices in the Ford's Theater building, workmen in the basement were removing portions of the building's foundation. The building collapsed. Eighteen employees were killed immediately and several more died later. Many more were injured.

**23.51** In December 1893, the Senate established a select committee to investigate the disaster and report whether the Government should compensate the victims (S. Rept. 528, 53d Cong., 2d sess., Serial 3192). A few months later, the sundry civil appropriations bill of August 18, 1894 (28 Stat. 392), created a joint commission of the existing Senate select committee and five Members of the House of Representatives. The commission was directed to investigate the disaster and report to the two Houses "whether in equity and justice the Government should compensate the sufferers of that disaster for the injuries sustained by them." If such compensation seemed appropriate, the act required the commission to investigate each case to determine the amount that should be paid.

**23.52** Upon investigation, the commission unanimously concluded that compensation should be made "by reason of the fact that in the contract for removing the underpinning of said building no provision whatever for shoring up the building during the excavation was made, and the fact that no provision was made for expert superintendence, the building at the time containing about 500 Government clerks" (S. Rept. 908, 54th Cong., 1st sess., Serial 3366).

**23.53** The commission proceeded to consider individual claims of death or injury due to the disaster, taking testimony and affidavits from claimants and witnesses. The commission referred all claims for permanent injury to a medical board. An abstract of each case was appended to a commission report of May 11, 1896. The committee completed its task on February 25, 1897, with the issuance of its final report (S. Rept. 1548, 54th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 3476), including synopses and recommendations on three new cases and some reconsidered claims. Among the records are the original claim forms and transcript of questions regarding the last few claims considered by the commission, as well as transcripts of coroner's inquests into the deaths of Frederick B. Loftus and J.H. Chapin. There are also letters, resolutions, an investigative report, and a printed copy of H. Exec. Doc. 61 (53d Cong., 2d sess., Serial 3223) consisting of a January 1894 letter from the Secretary of War regarding the condition of the building (S.C. 53, 54).

### *Joint Committee on the Revision of the Laws (1907-1910)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 ft | 1907-1910 | 59th-61st |

**23.54** Beginning in 1845, Little and Brown began publishing *Statutes at Large*, a series containing all the laws of the United States in order of enactment from the First Congress to the present. Such an arrangement is not necessarily the most convenient format for researchers. A compilation and codification of laws, for example, groups all laws by subject, with obsolete sections deleted. Such a publication is called a code, revised code, or revised statutes. The first official codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States was issued in 1874 and revised or updated in 1878.

**23.55** No further revisions occurred during the 19th century, and so, from 1897 to 1906, a Commission to Revise and Codify the Laws labored over a new codification of the laws. The commission's original assignment was limited to the criminal and penal laws but later expanded to include the judiciary act and its amendments as well. Eventually the commission was directed that it "shall bring together all statutes and parts of statutes relating to the same subjects, shall omit redundant and obsolete enactments, and shall make such alterations as may be necessary to reconcile the contradictions, supply the omissions, and amend the imperfections of the original text; and may propose and embody in such revision changes in the substance of existing law; but all such changes shall be clearly set forth in an accompanying report which shall briefly explain the reasons for the same" (H. Doc. 783, pt. 1, 61st Cong., 2d sess., Serial 5830).

**23.56** Three months after the commission submitted its final report, Congress established the Joint Committee on the Revision of the Laws "to examine, consider, and submit to Congress recommendations upon the revision and codification of the laws reported by the statutory revision commission." John L. Lott from the Department of Justice served as assistant to the joint committee. The committee first considered the commission's work regarding the penal code and proposed the codification and revision of the penal laws that was approved on March 4, 1909 (35 Stat. 1088). The following year, the committee presented S. 7031, 61st Cong., a bill to codify the laws relating to the judiciary. It was enacted as Public Law 61-475. The committee terminated on March 15, 1910, with its presentation of the judiciary code.[9]

**23.57** The records of the joint committee consist primarily of reports and correspondence. Many of the documents were sent by executive Departments in response to commission-prepared drafts of revision of the laws. The Navy, Forest Service, Civil Service Commission, and Department of Commerce and Labor are among the agencies represented. The laws considered relate to a wide variety of subjects, such as public lands, tariffs, immigration, the administration of the Philippine Islands, and the Smithsonian Institution. There are letters sent to Lott by William White, Superintendent of the Government Hospital for the Insane (St. Elizabeths Hospital). These discuss the District of Columbia's requirement of "an inquisition by jury to admit a feeble-minded person" to the hospital, as well as such topics as the admission of alcoholics as insane persons, proposed features of an insanity law for the District of Columbia, and the various State requirements for a determination of questions of insanity.

**23.58** Some materials among the records reflect the work of the commission, predating the establishment of the committee. Included are the commission's journal for the period from June 1898 to July 1901, correspondence of the commission, responses from Federal attorneys in various parts of the country to the commission's request for suggestions regarding the revision and codification of criminal and penal laws, comments of the Chicago Bar Association on the proposals for legislation, and a 1901 report of the New York Bar Association on the proposed revision of the criminal and penal laws (S.C. 61).

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[9] The revised codification of the general and permanent laws of the United States was not completed until 1925. That code is volume 44, part 1, of *Statutes at Large*

### *Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation (1926-present)*[10]

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 460 ft | 1926-68 | 69th-90th |

**23.59** With the exception of the Civil War period, before 1913 the United States Government had derived most of its revenue from indirect taxes, such as duties and excise taxes. On February 25, 1913, however, the 16th Amendment was added to the Constitution, clearing the way for Federal income taxes. In October of that year, under section 2 of an act to reduce tariff duties and to provide revenue for the Government (Public Law 63-16), the Federal Government imposed an income tax and began relying on direct taxation for its main source of revenue. The years immediately following brought a flurry of other tax laws, due in part to the demand for Government expenditures associated with World War I. The revenue collected by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Federal agency assigned to collect the income tax, increased 956 percent from 1916 to 1920. It was admittedly a period of experimentation regarding tax policy, and problems abounded.

**23.60** In 1924, the Senate established the Select Committee on Investigation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue in response to problems in the administration of the tax system. In its report of February 6, 1926 (S. Rept. 27, 69th Cong., 1st sess., Serial 8529), the select committee called for Congress to develop expertise in this area and to maintain close contact with the Bureau. Accordingly, on February 26, the Revenue Act of 1926 (Public Law 69-20) established the Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation to investigate the operation, effects, and administration of Federal internal revenue taxes and to study ways the system might be improved. Its 10 members were evenly drawn from the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Ways and Means Committee.

**23.61** The committee was given no legislative authority. Instead, it retained a professional staff of lawyers, economists, accountants, statisticians, and other tax experts to study and analyze the tax system and recommend improvements in it. Within a short time, the staff of the joint committee had become trusted advisors on tax issues for the Senate Finance Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the joint committee, Representative Daniel A. Reed of New York summarized this important role in the *Congressional Record*:

> The Joint Committee staff generally has furnished the entire technical assistance to both the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate on every item of tax legislation, large and small, irrespective of which party happened to be in control of the Congress at any particular time. Thus, the staff has been a truly nonpartisan one, providing an extraordinary reservoir of professional talent available to all Members of the Congress regardless of party.[11]

**23.62** In the course of its consideration of tax laws and tax policy, the joint committee staff worked both jointly with agency personnel and independently. They conferred with businessmen, economists, lawyers, individual taxpayers, and representatives of various tax organizations. Besides studies and analysis, the committee was given the additional duties of reviewing proposed individual tax refunds in excess of $75,000 and codifying the internal revenue laws.

**23.63** The records of the committee from its inception through 1968 total approximately 460 linear feet. They were transferred to the National Archives in lots over a period of years, beginning in 1973. The records are in several series, in part reflecting the periodic nature of the transfers. A few series are limited to certain document types, such as publications of the joint committee or publications of other committees. Most, however, are large, general series containing a mixture of document types. Among these general series, the arrangement may be alphabetical by subject or by section of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, there is considerable overlapping of dates covered and types of documents included, and some records have no discernible arrangement.

**23.64** The records include correspondence (much of it with Members of Congress), memorandums, staff working papers, studies, statistical data, congressional and agency publications, pamphlets and other informational materials, press releases, news clippings, administrative papers, and binders regarding specific tax legislation. There is material on the Federal budget, public debt, tax reform, the administration and operations of the Bureau of Internal Revenue or (after 1953) the Internal Revenue Service, social security, estate taxes, sales taxes, withholding, antitrust activities, life insurance companies, political campaign financing, specific tax cases, and myriad other subjects relating to Federal taxation policy and practices.

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[10] The Joint Committee on Internal Revenue Taxation is currently known as the Joint Committee on Taxation. The name change occurred in 1976 (90 Stat. 1835).

[11] *Congressional Record*, 84th Cong., 2d sess., 27 July 1956, vol. 102, pt. 11, p. 15341.

**23.65** A manuscript, informal list that provides some indication of the topics covered in 1067 boxes of the records of the joint committee now in the National Archives is available for use.

### *Joint Committee on Muscle Shoals (1926)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 4 in | 1926 | 69th |

**23.66** Section 124 of the National Defense Act of 1916 (Public Law 64-85) authorized the President to provide for the generation of power and the production of nitrates in order to manufacture munitions and fertilizers. The facilities were to be constructed and operated solely by the Federal Government. Accordingly, two nitrate plants were built on the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals, Alabama, during World War I. The Wilson Dam was constructed to supply power for the plants.

**23.67** The advent of peace ended the need for munitions, but the plants were not used to manufacture fertilizer as promised. Instead, by the end of 1925, the plants had been standing idle for 7 years, and their future was a controversial issue. In his annual message to Congress of December 8, 1925, President Calvin Coolidge pressed for transfer of the property to private management. He recommended "appointment of a small joint special committee . . . to receive bids, which when made should be reported with recommendations as to acceptance, upon which a law should be enacted, effecting a sale to the highest bidder who will agree to carry out these purposes."

**23.68** Shortly thereafter, on March 13, 1926, Congress established the Joint Committee on Muscle Shoals consisting of three members each from the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the House Committee on Military Affairs. The committee was charged with negotiating for the lease of the nitrate and power properties of the United States at Muscle Shoals. To fulfill this mandate, the committee issued a request for bids for a lease of 50 years or less to maintain the nitrate plant, produce fertilizer, and distribute surplus power. After consideration, the committee recommended acceptance of the offer by the Muscle Shoals Fertilizer Company and the Muscle Shoals Power Distributing Company, two corporations created by a consortium of southern power companies. Bills were introduced to this effect, but no action was taken on them.

**23.69** The records of the joint committee contain the nine proposals received in response to the request for bids. Also available is the committee minute book, which includes newspaper clippings and press releases.

### *Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs (1932-33)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 5 ft | 1932-33 | 72d-73d |

**23.70** Part II of the Legislative Appropriations Act for fiscal year 1933 (Public Law 72-212) presented measures designed to reduce Government expenditures. The Senate Committee on Appropriations, in its report on the bill (S. Rept. 756, 72d Cong., 1st sess., Serial 9488), included veterans benefits among the programs singled out for such reductions. These provisions failed to win congressional approval, however. Instead, the statute established a joint committee to "investigate the operation of the laws and regulations relating to the relief of veterans of all wars and persons receiving benefits on account of service of such veterans and report a national policy with respect to such veterans and their dependents, . . . and recommend such economies as will lessen the cost . . . of the Veterans' Administration."

**23.71** The records of the committee (5 ft.) consist mainly of documents related to its hearings, such as witness statements, requests for permission to testify, original transcripts of the hearings, and printers' galleys. Certain summary statistics, tables displaying inequalities in veterans benefits, and a list of Veterans Administration employees receiving disability compensation or emergency pay are among the records. There are copies of printed congressional materials, such as rules of the House Committee on Invalid Pensions, extracts from the *Congressional Record* regarding the Disabled Emergency Officers' Retirement List, and a "strictly confidential" print of certain papers submitted to the House Committee on Invalid Pensions of the 71st Congress. Other documents among the records include a proposed resolution, draft report, and correspondence.

### *Joint Committee to Investigate Dirigible Disasters (1933)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 ft | 1930-1933 | 73d |

**23.72** The *U.S.S. Akron*, a dirigible designed for the Navy by the Goodyear-Zeppelin Corporation of Akron, Ohio, made its maiden flight on September 23, 1931. The design of the *Akron* supposedly had resolved previous safety problems involving rigid airships, but, on April 4, 1933, the *Akron* crashed just off the coast of New Jersey under stormy conditions. Of the ship's company of 77 officers and men, 74 servicemen, including Rear Admiral William A. Moffett, lost their lives.

**23.73** The Joint Committee to Investigate Dirigible Disasters was created by H. Con. Res. 15, 73d Cong., to investigate the cause of the *Akron* disaster and the wrecks of other Army and Navy dirigibles and to determine responsibility. The committee was also directed to inquire generally into the question of the utility of dirigibles in military and naval establishments and make recommendations to the Senate and House of Representatives regarding their future use. Its final report was submitted on June 14, 1933 (S. Doc. 75, 73d Cong., 1st sess., Serial 9748). Col. Henry Breckenridge, former Assistant Secretary of War, served as counsel for the joint committee. Senator William H. King of Utah served as chairman, though Representative John J. Delaney of New York was chairman of the subcommittee that gathered the data and facts and arranged a program as to the method of investigation.

**23.74** The records include minutes of committee meetings, correspondence, memorandums, notes, working papers, staff reports, statements and narratives, digests of testimony, and questions for witnesses. There are also many documents used by the committee in its investigation, such as maps, photographs, pamphlets, newspaper clippings and articles, and a bound volume of the nearprint *Key to the Development of the Super-Airship Luftfahrzeugbau Schuette-Lanz* collated and edited by Frederick S. Hardesty in 1930. Copies of various congressional publications regarding the committee's work and copies of the findings of facts and opinions of the Navy's *U.S.S. Akron* Court of Inquiry are included.

**23.75** Among the subjects covered by the records are the wreck of the *Akron*, the history and development of lighter-than-air craft in Germany and elsewhere, airship patents, the merits of various types of rigid airships, the committee's methods of investigation, and administrative matters.

**23.76** There is a finding aid available to the records of this committee.

### *Joint Committee on the Tennessee Valley Authority (1938-39)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 80 ft | 1938-39 | 75th-76th |

**23.77** The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created by Public Law 73-17, approved May 18, 1933, to promote the social and economic welfare of the Tennessee Valley, an area encompassing parts of seven States. Through a series of dams and related programs, the TVA would generate and sell power, control floods and soil erosion, promote navigation, develop fertilizers, and encourage industry.

**23.78** In early 1938, Arthur E. Morgan, chairman of the three-man Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority, charged that dissension existed among the board and that there had been inefficient and uneconomical administration of the TVA Act. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt held hearings on the matter in March and then removed Morgan.

**23.79** The Joint Committee on the Tennessee Valley Authority was created in the wake of these events on April 4, 1938 (S. J. Res. 277, 75th Cong.). The committee was directed to investigate the administration of the TVA Act, particularly "any interference or handicaps placed in the way of the prompt, efficient, and economical administration of [TVA's] functions by internal dissension." They were to investigate allegations of partiality to large corporations, interference with the Comptroller General's audits of the TVA, and dissipation of funds through extravagance and mismanagement, as well as activities of private power companies opposed to TVA and the possibility of the production of sodium nitrate at a lower price.

**23.80** Senator Vic Donahey of Ohio was elected chairman. Francis Biddle served as general counsel, Thomas A. Panter as chief engineer, and W. O. Heffernan as secretary. The committee held hearings in Washington, Knoxville, and Chattanooga at which 100 witnesses testified, including all three board directors.

**23.81** The records of the committee contain a good deal of duplicate material, reflecting the fact that they are comprised of separate files of the committee secretary, auditor, general counsel, assistant general counsel, and chief engineer, as well as the general files of the committee.

**23.82** Many types of documents appear among the records. There are minutes of committee meetings, some of which were held in executive session, as well as copies of the committee report (S. Doc. 56, 76th Cong., 1st sess., Serial 10308), the preliminary report (S. Doc. 22, 76th Cong., 1st sess., Serial 10315), hearings transcripts, and committee press releases. Correspondence, memorandums, and reports and data prepared for the committee by TVA divisions and others are among the records, along with weekly reports of the general counsel, chief engineer, and secretary. There are transcripts and summaries of testimony, as well as reports, exhibits, and witness statements relating to the committee's hearings. Many items retained for reference purposes are among the records, including a copy of the Supreme Court decision upholding the constitutionality of the TVA, President Roosevelt's message dismissing Morgan, and a compilation of speeches and statements by Morgan. There are TVA pamphlets, bulletins, and reports, including a two-volume compilation of TVA administrative bulletins, as well as maps, plans, tables, and other documents relating to TVA projects and the Memphis and Chattanooga, TN, power systems. Administrative material of the committee among the records includes vouchers, ledgers, personnel files, and documents containing information on the committee's budget, equipment, and supplies.

**23.83** The records provide information on the activities and complaints of power companies opposed to the TVA program, complaints regarding TVA labor practices and land acquisitions, cooperation between TVA and State agencies, alleged changes made in TVA board minutes, and many other subjects relating to the TVA, including its board members and accounting methods. Also included is information on more general subjects, such as power rates, rural electrification, flood control, and regional conservation and development.

**23.84** A finding aid to the records of the committee and some informal notes listing folder titles of certain portions of files are available.

### *Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress (1944-46)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 1 ft | 1944-46 | 78th-79th |

**23.85** As World War II ended and the atomic age began, a consensus developed among Members of Congress that the committee structures by which the two Houses disposed of their business were antiquated, inefficient, and generally ill-suited to the new era. Committees frequently had overlapping jurisdictions, and there were too many committees, according to the prevailing view.

**23.86** The Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress was established by S. Con. Res. 23, 78th Cong., with a mandate to study and make proposals to improve the organization and effectiveness of Congress. The committee held 39 public hearings between March 3 and June 29, 1945, as well as four executive sessions. Over 100 witnesses testified, including 45 members of Congress. An additional 37 members submitted statements. The final result of the committee's efforts was the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946.

**23.87** The records include copies of resolutions and other documents relating to the committee's establishment, a suggested agenda for the committee, the minutes of the committee's first meeting, a copy of the printed hearings of the committee, and a conference committee print showing the differences between the two versions of the Legislative Reorganization Act. There is correspondence with the public and with Members and staff of Congress, as well as files of documents containing suggestions from Members of Congress, congressional employees, organized groups, and private citizens. Lists of the resolutions and bills that were introduced within the preceding 6 years proposing changes in the legislative organization and operation are supplemented by newspaper clippings and letters regarding the proposals, as well as copies of them. Also included is a typewritten paper entitled "On Reforming Congress" and news notes prepared by staff director George B. Galloway.

### *Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack (1945-46)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 40 ft | 1941-46 | 79th |

**23.88** At dawn on December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U. S. military and naval forces in Hawaii. In a disastrous and humiliating defeat, the United States suffered 3,435 casualties and loss of or severe damage to 188 planes, 8 battleships, 3 light cruisers, and 4 miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes, and 5 midget submarines.

**23.89** After the defeat of Japan almost 4 years later, Congress established the Joint Committee on the Investigation of the Pearl Harbor Attack to "make a full and complete investigation of the facts relating to the events and circumstances leading up to or following the attack." (S. Con. Res. 27, 79th Cong.) In its investigation, the committee sought to determine whether shortcomings or failures on the U.S. side might have contributed to the disaster and, if so, to suggest changes that might protect the country from another such tragedy in the future. The committee's public hearings commenced on November 15, 1945, and continued to May 31, 1946. Testimony was received from 43 witnesses and ran to 15,000 typewritten pages.

**23.90** The records of the committee include records relating to the seven previous governmental investigations of the Pearl Harbor attack. These were the Roberts Commission undertaken by Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts in 1941 at President Roosevelt's request; the investigation conducted by Admiral Thomas C. Hart in 1944 at the behest of the Secretary of the Navy; the 1944 Army Pearl Harbor Board; the 1944 Navy Court of Inquiry; the 1944-45 investigation by Col. Carter W. Clarke for Army Chief of Staff George C. Marshall; Maj. Henry C. Clausen's 1944-45 investigation for the Secretary of War; and Admiral H. Kent Hewitt's 1945 study for the Navy Secretary. In all, these investigations produced 9,754 pages of testimony from 318 witnesses. The joint committee published the proceedings of all seven as exhibits.

**23.91** Among the records are galleys of the proceedings and reports, as well as other records, of the seven inquiries. There are transcripts and exhibits relating to the joint committee hearings, and a copy of the committee report (S. Doc. 244, 79th Cong. 2d sess., Serial 11033). The documents include correspondence with the public and with current and former governmental agencies and officials, memorandums of the committee counsel, copies of correspondence and memorandums of executive departments (much of it formerly classified), copies of intercepted Japanese messages, replies to interrogatories, photographs, notes, and excerpts from newspapers dated November 20 to December 7, 1941. There are explanatory memorandums prepared by the retiring counsel for the new counsel and also receipts regarding documents borrowed, returned, and distributed. The records include various documents regarding the committee's plans, rules of procedure, and activities, as well as the committee's briefing book.

**23.92** There is a finding aid to the records of this committee.

### *Joint Committee on the Economic Report (1946-present)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 18 ft | 1946-1968 | 79th-90th |

**23.93** The Employment Act of 1946 (Public Law 79-304) reflected both the lingering wounds of the Great Depression and the confident aspirations of the immediate postwar era. Section 2 declared it to be "the continuing policy and responsibility of the Federal Government to use all practicable means . . . for the purpose of creating and maintaining . . . conditions under which there will be afforded useful employment opportunities . . . for those able, willing, and seeking to work, and to promote maximum employment, production, and purchasing power." To achieve this policy, section 3 required the President to send Congress an annual report reviewing the economic program of the Federal Government and current conditions in the Nation, and outlining a program for implementing the policy proclaimed in section 2.

**23.94** Section 5 of the act established the Joint Committee on the Economic Report, now known as the Joint Economic Committee.[12] The committee's functions were outlined in the Employment Act and included studying the economic report, exploring means of coordinating programs to further the government's policy regarding employment, and providing guidance to congressional committees regarding the economic report. In short, the mandate enabled the committee to consider and make recommendations on the whole range of economic policy. Over the years, the committee provided facts and analyses to Congress on developing economic trends, offered advice regarding the mix of public and private policies most likely to achieve full employment, and issued annual reports to assist committees in dealing with legislation relating to the President's economic report.

**23.95** The records of the joint committee include 26 volumes of unpublished transcripts of hearings held by the committee's eastern, mid-continent, and western subcommittees during September and October 1947. These hearings were authorized by S. Con. Res. 19, 80th Cong., to study the high prices of consumer goods in order to make recommendations to Congress regarding legislation. The subcommittees held hearings in 26 cities in the three regions. They heard from hundreds of witnesses, representing producers, processors, wholesalers and retailers of farm products, as well as manufacturers and distributors of consumer goods, labor organizations, civic and consumer groups, economists, and research organizations. The transcripts are arranged by city.

**23.96** Correspondence among committee members and staff, with other Members of Congress, and with interested citizens is also among the records. For the years 1965 to 1968, there is a chronological file of copies of outgoing letters, staff reports, and press releases. Other records of the committee include memorandums and speeches of committee members and staff, and information on committee activities. There are assorted materials regarding the February 1966 symposium held to honor the 20th anniversary of the Employment Act of 1946, as well as correspondence, memorandums, magazines, statements, charts, and press releases concerning the annual report of 1967.

### *Joint Committee on Atomic Energy (1946-77)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 406 ft | 1946-77 | 79th-95th |

**23.97** The complex technology and high-level security classifications peculiar to atomic power led Congress to make special provisions for dealing with it. As a result, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy was established by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946 (Public Law 79-585). The committee was created to "make continuing studies of the activities of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and of problems relating to the development, use, and control of atomic energy." Unlike other joint committees created during the modern era, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy was given the authority to report legislation. Indeed, the Atomic Energy Act directed that "all bills, resolutions, and other matters in the Senate or the House of Representatives relating primarily to the Commission or to the development, use or control of atomic energy" should be referred to the joint committee.

**23.98** Created to serve as a "watchdog" of the U.S. atomic energy program, the committee monitored the Government's classified and unclassified activities involving peaceful and military applications of atomic energy. The committee held hearings in both public and executive sessions, reported bills, undertook studies, and published reports, committee prints, and hearings transcripts that sometimes included testimony taken in executive session with classified material deleted. Through hearings and other public informational activities, the committee played a significant role in encouraging peacetime uses of atomic energy. The committee dealt with such subjects as the budget authorization bills for the Atomic Energy Commission, international agreements regarding atomic energy stemming from President Dwight D. Eisenhower's "Atoms-For-Peace" speech of December 1953, and various mutual defense agreements.

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[12] The name was changed by section 2 of Public Law 84-591 of June 18, 1956

**23.99** The records of the committee (406 ft.)[14] are divided into eleven series. The unclassified general subject file comprises 75 percent of all the records. The series includes documents dating from 1946 to 1977, filed alphabetically by subject. There is correspondence with Members of Congress, the AEC and other executive agencies, utility companies, plant construction firms, research institutions, and private citizens. Also in this series are memorandums, printed reports, studies, brochures and pamphlets, minutes of meetings, transcripts of hearings, copies of committee prints, bills and accompanying papers, speeches, press releases, maps, photographs, and news clippings, as well as committee administrative materials. The entire range of subjects considered by the committee is represented here, including atomic weapons, nuclear weapons tests, atomic power, civil defense, nuclear facilities, radiation, research, nuclear accidents, nuclear propulsion, raw materials, foreign relations, legislation, and the Atomic Energy Agency, International Atomic Energy Agency, and Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

**23.100** The classified general subject file, like its unclassified counterpart, is arranged alphabetically by subject. It contains national security classified materials dating from 1947 to 1977. Among the many subjects considered in the documents are activities and weapons of foreign nations, international negotiations, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the reactor development program, weapons tests, the thermonuclear program, ores and raw materials, and radiation. Types of documents include correspondence, memorandums, reports, photographs, charts, and training manuals. There is a classified index to classified general subject file, arranged alphabetically by subject. The index lists the subject of the document, document number, date, and a description of the document (including sender and recipient, where applicable).

**23.101** Unclassified transcripts of hearings and meetings held in executive session, 1954 to 1961, and classified transcripts of meetings and hearings in executive session, 1947 to 1977, are among the records and filed chronologically. There is also a classified index to classified transcripts of meetings and hearings in executive session that includes the date of the hearing or meeting, its subject, the file number, and a brief description of the document. Investigative records dealing with the nomination of David E. Lilienthal to be chairman of the AEC date from January to March 1947 and were created or received by the committee during its consideration of the nomination. Lilienthal served as chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority from 1941 to 1946, and the committee's investigation centered on conflict of interest charges raised as a result of his previous position with TVA. Lilienthal was confirmed, nevertheless, and served as AEC chairman until 1950. The records consist of correspondence, including various attachments such as reports and newspaper clippings, as well as printed hearings regarding the nomination and other matters.

**23.102** Investigative records regarding the nomination of Allen Whitfield to be commissioner of the AEC consist of documents dating from 1937-55, arranged by subject. Whitfield was nominated in 1955, and the joint committee investigated allegations of financial irregularities. There are copies of wills and other documents relating to estate settlement, financial records, hearings and interview transcripts, and a committee staff report on the results of the investigation.

**23.103** Files of Senator Brien McMahon of Connecticut, first chairman of the joint committee, date from 1945 to 1950. McMahon served as chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Atomic Energy and introduced the bill that became the Atomic Energy Act. In 1945, he became the chairman of the joint committee, relinquished the post from 1947 to 1948, and then returned to it from 1949 until his death in 1952. Included among the records is correspondence with members of Congress, executive departments, businessmen and private citizens. There are also reports, bills, memorandums, and news clippings and other printed materials. Some of the materials relate to noncommittee responsibilities.

**23.104** Records of the Panel on the Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, March 1955 to March 1956, are arranged in part by chapter number of the panel's report and in part by subject. The joint committee appointed the panel on March 26, 1955, to conduct a comprehensive study of the peaceful uses of atomic energy and to recommend to the committee legislative or administrative action to promote such uses.

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[14] This figure includes some records created after 1968. Because of the arrangement of the general subject files, it is impossible to provide a figure that represents the volume of records of the committee that date from 1968 or earlier.

**23.105** The panel's members were nine private citizens drawn from science, education, industry, labor, and the press; and it was chaired by Robert McKinney, editor and publisher of the *Santa Fe New Mexican*. The panel surveyed the fields of power, medicine and public health, agriculture, food preservation, propulsion, and industry. It considered the organization of the AEC, control of information, research and development, manpower, education, hazards, protection and insurance, ownership of materials, licensing and regulation, financing, and patents. The results were published in January 1956 as a two-volume joint committee print, entitled *Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Volume 1: Report of the Panel on the Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy. Volume 2: Background Material for the Report of the Panel on the Impact of Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.*

**23.106** Among the records is correspondence with the AEC, other executive Departments, and officials of interested industries. There are also reports and surveys submitted to the panel, and partial drafts and galley proofs of the panel's report.

**23.107** General administrative and financial records, 1945-76, are arranged chronologically by year and thereunder by type. They include bank statements, payroll records, petty cash receipts, vouchers, travel account ledgers, staff leave and attendance records, guard registers, and visitor logbooks.

**23.108** A finding aid is available for the records of this committee, including folder title lists for the unclassified general subject file, unclassified transcripts, records relating to the nominations of David E. Lilienthal and Allen Whitfield, the files of Senator McMahon, and the records of the Panel on the Impact of the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy.

**23.109** Many records of the committee remain classified. Some have recently been declassified. Others, no doubt, could be declassified upon review. A researcher interested in a topic that appears in the classified records of the commmittee may request such a review.

### *Joint Committee on Labor Management Relations (1947-49)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 15 ft | 1947-49 | 80th-81st |

**23.110** The National Labor Relations Act (Public Law 74-198), also known as the Wagner Act, was enacted as part of the New Deal on July 5, 1935. It guaranteed workers the right to organize and join labor unions and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing. It also established the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) to enforce the act.

**23.111** The Labor Management Relations Act of 1947 (Public Law 80-101), known as the Taft-Hartley Act, passed despite President Harry Truman's veto. The act reaffirmed the Wagner Act's basic guarantees but contained certain provisions designed to correct the perceived imbalance of the Wagner Act in favor of labor. The Taft-Hartley Act also created the Joint Committee on Labor Management Relations, with members drawn from the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare and the House Committee on Education and Labor. The committee was authorized to study and investigate "the entire field of labor-management relations," including ways to secure "permanent friendly cooperation between employers and employees," the means for an individual employee to produce more and benefit more, the organization and administration of labor unions, the impact of the closed shop, labor relations policies and practices of employers, the desirability of employee welfare funds, best procedures for collective bargaining, and the administration and operation of Federal laws regarding labor relations.

**23.112** The records of the committee include correspondence of committee members and staff, memorandums, a research report, notes, minutes, and press releases, as well as witness statements, original transcripts, and galleys relating to committee hearings. Among the records concerning the committee's study of labor relations in specific industrial establishments are materials from plant studies of B.F. Goodrich, Botany Worsted Mills, International Harvester, and R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. Also included are printed promotional materials of corporations and documents regarding welfare fund and pension plans.

**23.113** Many of the documents pertain directly to National Labor Relations Board activities. These include briefs and other legal documents regarding cases before the NLRB, speeches by Board personnel, letters and other correspondence, memorandums by NLRB general counsel and staff, a statistical summary of NLRB casework, a summary of Board decisions, and documents regarding legal proceedings pursuant to various sections of the Labor Management Relations Act. Nine binders contain NLRB printed materials, such as laws, regulations, decisions, and weekly analyses of significant developments.

**23.114** Newspaper clippings, magazines, committee press releases, and applications for positions on the committee staff are also among the records.

### *Joint Committee on Housing (1947-48)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 4 ft | 1947-48 | 80th |

**23.115** Home building virtually stopped during World War II as supplies and labor were diverted elsewhere. When the veterans returned to civilian life at the end of the war, an acute housing shortage developed. In an effort to deal with this crisis, Congress established the Joint Committee on Housing, with members drawn from the House and Senate Committees on Banking and Currency. The committee conducted hearings in 33 cities, receiving testimony from 1286 witnesses. It also undertook extensive studies on specific subjects and conferred informally with industry and labor leaders. The committee submitted its final report (H. Rept. 1564, 80th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11210) on March 15, 1948.

**23.116** The records consist of the committee's minute book, as well as original and printed transcripts of the hearings, and other printed materials of the commmittee.

### *Congressional Aviation Policy Board (1947-48)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 24 ft | 1947-48 | 80th |

**23.117** The new and terrible threat posed by modern aircraft carrying atomic weapons, coupled with the threatened bankruptcy of the aircraft and air carrier industries, raised grave concerns about the country's air defenses in the period immediately following World War II. Accordingly, on July 18, 1947, President Harry S. Truman appointed a panel of private citizens, the Presidential Air Policy Commission, to assist him in formulating a national policy on aviation.

**23.118** By act of July 30, 1947 (Public Law 80-287), the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, a similar body but composed of five Members of each House of Congress, was established. The Congressional Aviation Policy Board was directed to study current and future needs of American aviation, both civil and military, and to develop a national aviation policy that would meet the needs of national defense, interstate and foreign commerce, and the postal service. It was to study the current and future needs of the aircraft and related industries, determine the aircraft and air transportation industries necessary to provide for these needs, and suggest the proper role of the government in aviation matters.

**23.119** At the first meeting of the Congressional Aviation Policy Board, held on September 15, 1947, Senator Owen Brewster of Maine was elected chairman, and Representative Carl Hinshaw of California, vice chairman. The Board worked closely with an advisory council composed of aviation experts drawn from Government, industry, military, and other sources. In addition, the Board consulted with the Presidential Air Policy Commission in order to prevent a duplication of effort and to provide for the mutual exchange of data and information.

**23.120** The Congressional Aviation Policy Board established four subcommittees to consider different components of a coordinated aviation policy. The subcommittees dealt with combat aviation, Government organization, manufacturing, and transportation.

**23.121** The Board held intermittent executive sessions from September 15, 1947, to February 23, 1948, at which high-level Government and military officials discussed the problems facing U.S. military and civil aviation and possible solutions. On March 1, 1948, the Board issued its report (S. Rept. 949, 80th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 11206), which contained 92 recommendations in five areas: combat aviation, air transport, aircraft manufacture, research, and Government organization. Although it had issued its report, the Board continued to function until the end of the 80th Congress on December 31, 1948, working to translate its recommendations into national policy.

**23.122** The records of the Policy Board include administrative materials, documents concerning the executive hearings and meetings of the board, correspondence, legislative files, and certain records relating to the President's Air Policy Commission. There are also records of the subcommittees on combat aviation, Government organization, and transportation. Two card files index certain records of the Board. A few of the records are security classified.

**23.123** Types of documents include correspondence, memorandums, minutes, agenda, reports, studies, charts, working papers, copies of bills and resolutions, press clippings, and printed informational materials, as well as payroll and personnel records. There are transcripts of the hearings and meetings of the Board and of the press conferences held by the chairman and vice chairman. The records relate to proposed legislation, governmental aviation activities, aviation requirements of the Air Force and Navy, methods of maintaining a strong aircraft industry, the financial position of the air transportation industry, ground facilities, safety issues, and many other issues involving aviation.

**23.124** A finding aid is available for these records. For related records, see records of the President's Air Policy Commission among Record Group 220, Records of Presidential Committees, Commissions, and Boards.

### *Records of the Joint Committee on Defense Production (1950-77)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 37 ft | 1950-68 | 81st-90th |

**23.125** Rising wages and prices during the Korean War caused serious economic difficulties within the United States. In an effort to expand production and insure economic stability, the Defense Production Act of 1950 (Public Law 81-774) authorized Governmental activities in various areas, including requisition of property for national defense, expansion of productive capacity and supply, wage and price stabilization, settlement of labor disputes, control of consumer and real estate credit, and establishment of contract priorities and materials allocation designed to aid the national defense. Under section 712, the Joint Committee on Defense Production was established to serve as a "watchdog" over Federal agencies administering the various programs authorized by the act. The members of the committee were drawn from the Senate and House Committees on Banking and Currency.

**23.126** The committee undertook continuing studies and reviews of progress achieved under the various programs established by the Defense Production Act. It received quarterly reports from each Department or agency performing functions under the act, as well as a summary of yearly activities for inclusion in the committee's annual report of the committee to Congress. The agency reports provided information regarding authorities and responsibilities, progress and problems of current defense programs, future objectives, mobilization readiness, cooperation with small business, advisory committees, and related matters. Committee staff reviewed the reports and undertook interviews in the Departments. The committee held hearings on programs, activities, and problems, and it monitored expenditures of funds authorized by the act to purchase materials to expand supplies of strategic and critical materials and to provide loans to private enterprises for capital expansion or the production of essential materials. By the mid-1950's, the focus of the committee had changed from mobilization activities to preparation for future emergencies.

**23.127** The records of the committee include correspondence with small businesses, 1950-1953, regarding problems arising from the imposition of various controls deriving from the Defense Production Act. Other records for the same period include reports from Federal agencies, agency regulations, and executive orders, as well as a general subject file, comprised mainly of correspondence, regarding such issues as price controls, export licenses, Federal procurement policies, and other activities under the Defense Production Act. There are records regarding various legislative proposals relating to the work of the committee from 1950 to 1953 and to the steel strike of 1952. These include working papers, analyses, memorandums, extracts from the *Congressional Record*, correspondence, and press releases.

**23.128** Legislative oversight records, 1951 to 1974, relate to machine tools, transportation, rationing, the borrowing authority, and stockpiles and consist of correspondence, memorandums, reports to the committee, executive orders, staff reports and summaries, and printed materials used for reference purposes. Unpublished transcripts of hearings, 1951-1959, as well as certain reports and studies from executive Departments and others, are among the classified records of the committee. There is also a classified subject file that includes reports, memorandums, correspondence, and commodity fact sheets and inventories.

**23.129** A manuscript, informal folder title list is available for most of these records.

### *Joint Committee on Washington Metropolitan Problems (1957-60)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 4 in | 1957-60 | 85th-86th |

**23.130** The Department of Interior Appropriations Act for FY 1957 included funds for the National Capital Planning Commission and the National Capital Regional Planning Council to conduct a joint "survey of the present and future mass transportation needs of the National Capital region" (70 Stat. 271). As the survey proceeded, those involved became convinced that a more wide-ranging and comprehensive study was required. Accordingly, a joint Congressional committee was established to study the problems created by growth in the greater District of Columbia region and to make recommendations regarding them. Members of the committee were drawn from the House and Senate Committees on the District of Columbia.

**23.131** The committee's work proceeded in two phases. During the first phase, until January 1959, the committee studied and prepared staff reports on the region's water supply, pollution, economic development, park areas, and governmental organization. Transportation problems were not a special focus of the committee during the first phase because the mass transportation survey was not yet completed. The second phase, beginning in November 1959, concentrated on transportation issues and resulted in the National Capital Transportation Act (Public Law 86-669).

**23.132** The only records of the committee are two volumes of transcripts of committee meetings held in executive session. These cover the entire life of the committee, dating from October 30, 1957, to August 23, 1960.

### *Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress (1965-66)*

| | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Records | 3 ft | 1965-66 | 89th |

**23.133** The Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress was established by S. Con. Res. 2, 89th Cong., on March 11, 1965, to study the organization and operation of Congress and recommend improvements "with a view toward strengthening the Congress, simplifying its operations, improving its relationship with other branches of the United States Government, and enabling it better to meet its responsibilities under the Constitution." For 5 months, the committee held hearings at which 199 witnesses testified, including 106 Members of Congress. The committee issued its final report (S. Rept. 1414, 89th Cong., 2d sess., Serial 12712-2) on July 28, 1966.

**23.134** The committee's work led eventually to the passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-510). Among other provisions, the legislation opened committee proceedings to more public scrutiny by mandating that committee meetings and hearings be open to the public unless the committee specifically voted to close them and requiring that all committee roll call votes should be made public.

**23.135** The records include correspondence, memorandums, analytical reports, committee agenda, texts of speeches, press releases, and copies of committee publications and other printed materials. Various papers pertain to the committee hearings, including statements and summaries of hearings. There are memorandums, proposals, analytical reports, and a bibliography regarding "The Press and the American Political Scene" prepared by the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress. A dissertation on evasiveness of governmental administrators when answering questions is also among the files.

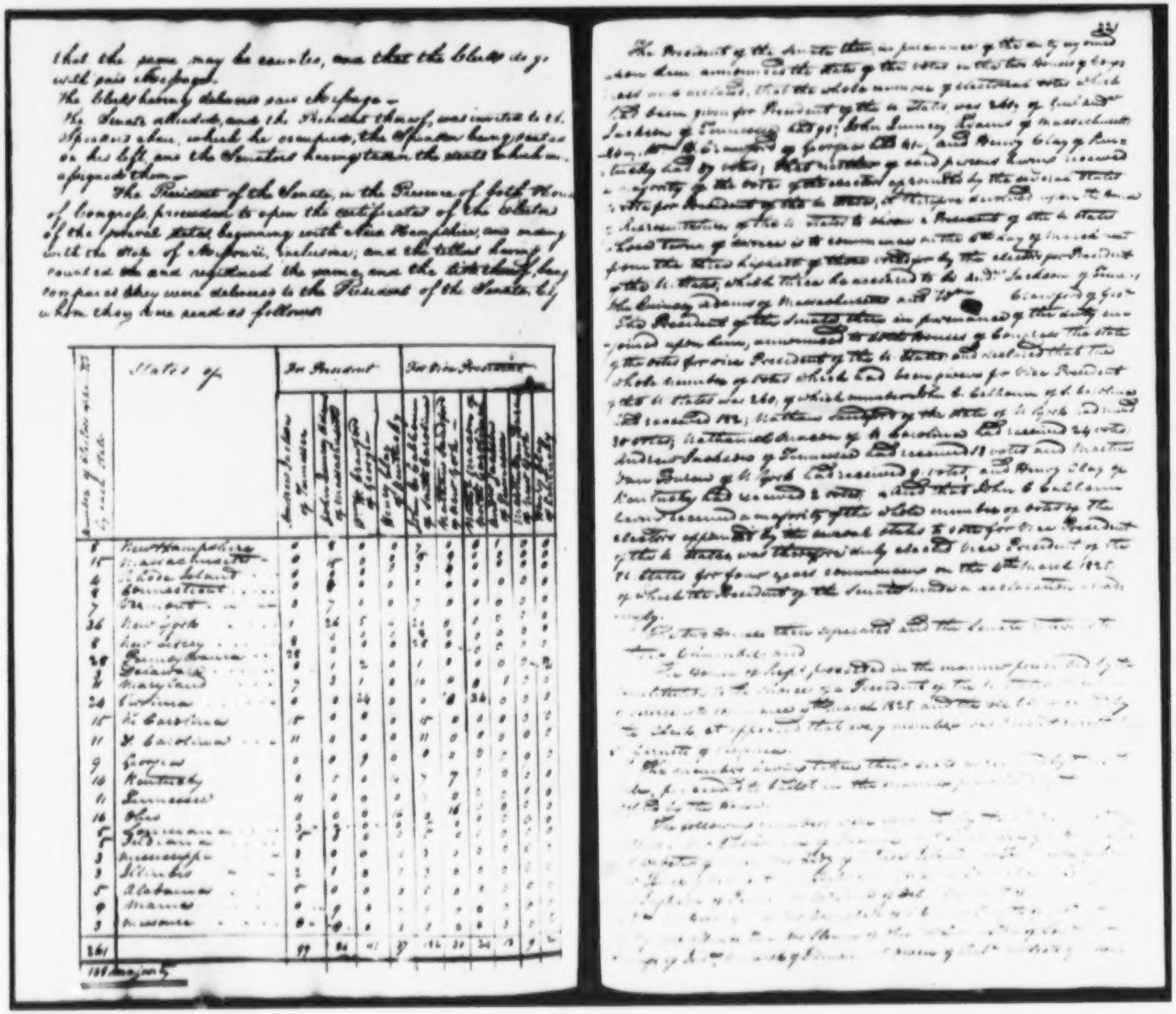
**23.136** Subjects covered include possible applications of computer technology to assist Congress in its work, as well as proposals regarding fiscal controls, congressional authority, ethics, and staffs.

# Chapter 24

# GENERAL RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## 1789–1968

*Only twice in American history has the election of the President of the United States been determined in the House of Representatives as provided for in the Constitution when no candidate receives a majority of the electoral votes. These pages of the original Journal of the House of Representatives for the 18th Congress, 2d session, record the joint meeting of the Senate and House which determined that none of the Presidential candidates had received a majority of the electoral votes in 1824. The members of the Senate returned to their Chamber, and the members of the House proceeded to appoint one representative from each state who cast the votes that determined that John Quincy Adams would be the next President of the United States.*



# CHAPTER 24

# GENERAL RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 1789-1968

## Introduction

**24.1** The documents described in this chapter include records that were generated as part of the legislative proceedings of the U.S. House of Representatives; records that were maintained by the Clerk of the House of Representatives in his role as chief administrative officer of the House; and the records of impeachment proceedings in the House.

**24.2** The records of the legislative proceedings consist in large part of documents that were introduced or generated on the floor of the House: minutes and journals, bills, committee reports, and documents introduced on the floor and ordered to be printed, including messages from the President. Most of these are the original documents that were ordered to be printed. Petitions and memorials and committee papers that were not referred to a standing or select committee, but were dispensed with in the Committee of the Whole are included in this category. Other petitions that were not referred to committees, but were ordered to be tabled are also described here. Finally, the election records, including the credentials of Representatives and Delegates, are described in this chapter.

**24.3** The records of the Office of the Clerk include record books created by the various clerks who record floor activity and the receipt of documents on the floor; volumes of transcribed reports of committees from the period before the reports were routinely printed; and the political committee reports and lobby reports that the Clerk is required by law to maintain.

**24.4** The records of impeachment proceedings have been filed in several ways during the history of the House. This chapter discusses the records of impeachment proceedings that have been maintained as a separate collection rather than filed with the records of a standing or select committee.

***Records of Legislative Proceedings, 1st-90th Congresses, (1789-1968)***

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Journals & Minutes | 276 ft. | 1789-1968 | 1st-90th |
| Original House Bills | 1,516 ft. | 1789-1968 | 1st-90th |
| Original Senate Bills | 56 ft | 1813-1968 | 13th-90th |
| Original Committee Reports | 753 ft. | 1861-1968 | 37th-90th |
| Original House Documents | 1,375 ft. | 1847-1968 | 30th-90th |
| Messages from the President | 75 ft. | 1791-1861 | 2d-36th |
| Reports & communications | 139 ft. | 1791-1861 | 2d-36th |
| Committee Papers of the Committee of the Whole | 2 ft. | 1823-63, 1895-99<br>1901-11, 1925-27<br>1931-33, 1935-42<br>1949-54 | 18th-37th, 54th-55th<br>61st, 69th,<br>72d, 74th-77th,<br>81st-83d |
| Petitions & Memorials of the Committee of the Whole | 11 ft. | 1799-1841, 1843-55<br>1877-79 | 6th-26th, 28th-33d<br>45th |
| Tabled petitions and memorials | 57 ft. | 1797-1867, 1869-71 | 5th-39th, 41st |
| Election records | 71 ft. | 1805-1968 | 9th-90th |
| Accompanying papers | 1,049 ft. | 1865-1903 | 39th-57th |
| Other records | 66 ft. | 1791-1968 | 2d-90th |
| TOTAL: 5,446 ft. (including 12,385 vols.) | | | |

**24.5** The Constitution provides that "each House shall keep a Journal of its proceedings and from time to time publish the same." The original House **journals and minutes**, 1789-1968 consist of 960 volumes of handwritten (or typescript after 1893) manuscripts of the published *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States* in either the rough (first draft) or more often the smooth (final) version that was sent to printer. There is usually at least one volume for each session of Congress.

**24.6** The *Journal* gives a narrative summary of the day-by-day proceedings of each session, recording all bills introduced, the committee to which they were referred, and all subsequent floor action. Also recorded are all roll call votes with the names of Representatives voting yea or nay. The *Journal* is well indexed by subject and serves as the basic finding aid for unpublished legislative case (bill) files. By means of the subject index, bill numbers and committees of referral can be located so that searches can be made for related records. Petitions, memorials, resolutions of State legislatures and executive communications are also recorded in the *Journal* and are indexed. The *Journal* does not record the speeches or debates on the floor, although the texts of some Presidential messages are printed.

**24.7** The **original House bills** are preserved in 3,280 bound volumes. They include the original manuscript bills and joint, concurrent, and simple resolutions "dropped in the hopper" by the Representatives who introduced them. Beginning with the First Congress, there are bound volumes of engrossed bills, which are bills that passed the House in their final House version, signed by the Clerk of the House. From the 13th to the 56th Congresses (1813-1901) enrolled bills, which are the final drafts of engrossed bills that have passed both Houses of Congress, are bound. For some Congresses there may also be a printed series of "desk copies of House bills passed," which is generally found for the period after the Civil War.

**24.8** For the period 1789-1807 only engrossed bills are available. After that time the series of original bills is mostly complete. Beginning in 1871, these original bills are in bound volumes. The series of bills that originated in the Senate, were passed and transmitted to the House, begins in 1813, and is mostly complete from the 19th Congress (1825-27), and thereafter. In the 20th century, additional subseries in this category may be found, such as desk copies of bills that failed to pass, and engrossed concurrent and simple resolutions. Printed copies of bills are often found in the records of the committees that considered them.

**24.9** Closely related to the original House bills in their various versions are **original Senate bills** that were submitted to the House for its consideration following Senate passage.

**24.10 Original committee reports** consist of the original manuscripts of House committee reports that are filed numerically for each session of Congress. They comprise 2,966 volumes beginning with the 42d Congress (1861-63). Original committee reports prior to 1861 are included in the series of committee papers which are arranged by committee.

**24.11 Original House documents** consist of the originals of documents that were introduced on the floor of the House and ordered to be printed. They began to be maintained as a separate series in 1847 when the original manuscripts of the House miscellaneous documents were first bound by the Government printing contractors and returned to the Clerk of the House after the printed edition was issued. Originals of House executive documents were bound similarly beginning with the 37th Congress (1861-63). The two categories, executive and miscellaneous, are arranged numerically for each session and are cited in the style H. Ex. Doc. 1, 37th Cong., 1st sess., or H. Misc. Doc. 1, 30th Cong., 1st sess. Executive documents are those transmitted to the House from executive agencies, while miscellaneous documents are any other items that the House chose to have printed, except its own committee reports. Beginning in 1861, the original Presidential messages and other executive communications which had been maintained separately were bound with the other documents in this series. After 1895 the distinction between executive and miscellaneous was eliminated and there is one numerical series of House documents for each session of Congress. There are 5,175 bound volumes of original House documents.

**24.12 Messages from the President** that were transmitted to the House of Representatives include the annual messages of each President (now usually called the "State of the Union" addresses) and other messages in which the President asked for particular legislation or furnished information to Congress. The latter type of message was often in response to a request; for example, a message from President Andrew Jackson of April 2, 1832, "in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th of last month" sent information on "whether possession has been taken of any part of the territory of the United States on the Pacific Ocean by the subjects of any foreign power. . . ." (32A-E1).

**24.13** These Presidential messages were printed as House documents and became part of the series of Congressional publications known as the *Congressional*

*Serial Set*. The Jackson message previously mentioned was printed as H. Ex. Doc. 191, 22d Cong., 1st sess. After 1861, the original manuscripts of House documents were bound together after being printed and the series of Presidential messages was no longer maintained as a separate entity.

**24.14** The same is true of a closely related series, **reports and communications** received by the House of Representatives. These are original messages received directly from heads of the executive Departments, mainly Cabinet secretaries but also from other officials such as the Director of the Mint and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. These messages were sent to request legislation or to provide information and they were usually printed as House documents. After 1861, these messages may be found in the original House document series. Because in recent years executive agencies have been required by law to submit more reports, the reports—many now called Executive Communications—are often referred directly to the appropriate committee and are no longer printed as House documents. However, they may be issued as Committee Prints by the committees they are referred to, or printed directly by the agencies preparing them. Many annual reports are no longer formally transmitted to Congress at all.

**24.15** The Committee of the Whole is unlike the standing and select committees discussed in previous chapters. The committee, which quite literally consists of the entire membership of the House, stems from a practice of the House of Commons, when the Speaker of the House of Commons was regarded as an agent of the King. The procedure allows the Speaker to remove himself from the chairmanship in order for the body to elect its own chairman and debate matters without the normal restrictions of a House of Commons session.

**24.16** In the House of Representatives, the process differs from the British practice in several respects and is an important part of House floor procedure for the consideration of bills. Most important bills, such as those raising revenue, general appropriation bills, and bills of a public character directly or indirectly appropriating money or property, are listed on the Union Calendar and considered in the Committee of the Whole. In the Committee of the Whole, the Speaker does not preside, but appoints a chairman, usually a member of his own party. With a quorum of 100, the Committee of the Whole debates measures under the so-called five-minute rule rather than the hour rule, and it may amend and report bills. There are several technical parliamentary procedures associated with the Committee of the Whole, but in the end, bills considered by the Committee of the Whole must be approved by the entire House. Another function of the Committee of the Whole is to consider the "State of the Union" address of the President.

**24.17** Despite the procedural importance of the Committee of the Whole, it generates little in the way of paper documentation, and few records of the committee are preserved at the National Archives. The **committee papers of the Committee of the Whole** include four volumes of minutes from 1833 through 1863, loose papers relating to accounts of expenditures of two diplomatic officers in the early 1840's (29A-D23.1) and files for private claims and other bills, 54th-55th Congresses (1895-99). Thereafter, the papers include only State of the Union messages and other Presidential messages.

**24.18** **Petitions and memorials of the Committee of the Whole** are somewhat more complete. From the 6th to the 33d Congress, except for the 27th Congress, certain petitions and memorials were referred to the Committee of the Whole. The apparent reason for referral of these documents to this committee, rather than to another standing committee, is that at the time of referral, the bill to which the petition or memorial related was under consideration by the Committee of the Whole. Endorsements on several of these petitions indicate that they had been referred earlier to another standing committee, such as the Committee on Commerce and Manufactures, the Committee on Post Office and Post Roads, and the Committee on the Judiciary among others. Among the subjects of the petitions are the repeal of the alien and sedition acts, 1800 (6A-F5.1); the trade embargo and other trade restrictions during British war with France, 1808-1812 (10A-F10.1, 12A-F12.1); the patent rights of inventor Oliver Evans (12A-F12.5, 13A-G14.2); the slave trade (15A-G18.1); the removal of Indians from Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi, 1830-31 (21A-G23.3); the exclusion of slavery and the slave trade from the District of Columbia in the mid-1850's (33A-G26.1); opposition to passage of the Kansas-Nebraska bill, 1854 (33A-G26.2); and the repeal of the fugitive slave law (33A-G26.4). For many Congresses, the petitions concern the establishment of a uniform bankruptcy law, establishment of post roads and routes, various tariffs and internal improvements, and general claims legislation.

**24.19 Election records** consist primarily of credentials of Representatives and Delegates, arranged for each Congress alphabetically by State or Territory. The credentials are sometimes accompanied by related correspondence.

**24.20** The **accompanying papers** file consists of papers relating to claims, pensions, and other forms of private relief, together with papers relating to certain public matters, that are arranged for each Congress alphabetically by person, State, Territory, or subject. Although the records are filed alphabetically by the name of the individual or entity, they are essentially files of papers relating to specific bills or resolutions—what are referred to elsewhere in this guide as bill files.

**24.21** The accompanying papers files for each Congress were artificially constructed by collecting together the bill files of the various committees, mostly concerning private legislation, and arranging them in a single alphabetical sequence. This practice was discontinued after the 57th Congress (1901-3) at which time the individual committees began systematically retiring the series of bill files. This series is the primary location of records relating to private legislation between the 39th and 57th Congress. Before that period the relevant records would be found in the committee papers of the appropriate committee and after that date they are among the appropriate committee's bill files.

**24.22** Individual files may contain either printed bills or reports, or unprinted records such as letters or petitions. Most files contain both printed and unprinted material. There are tens of thousands of these files, but they are usually small. From the 45th to the 51st Congress, printed copies of private bills are filed at the end of the accompanying papers.

**24.23** The vast majority of the accompanying papers concern common citizens seeking pensions or payment of claims against the Government. Some petitions for relief concern nonmonetary matters such as relief of political disabilities under the 14th Amendment. For example, in 1886 J. R. Eggleston, a former lieutenant in the U.S. Navy who resigned his commission when Mississippi seceded from the Union, successfully sought such relief (49A-D1). Occasionally, the papers concern someone of greater historical significance; for example, the series contains the petition of Susan B. Anthony for remission of a fine levelled against her for voting in the Presidential election of 1872 (43A-D1). Papers relating to States or Territories frequently concern private or public bills relating to particular projects, such as the construction of Federal buildings or improvements to rivers and harbors. Papers relating to other subjects are rare.

**24.24 Tabled petitions and memorials** are those petitions and memorials the House received but did not refer to committees for consideration, thereby disposing of them in an adverse manner without debate. Relatively few petitions and memorials, less than 1 linear foot per Congress, were tabled. For a few Congresses, however, substantially more petitions and memorials were tabled. One issue resulting in a large number of tabled memorials was the controversy over rechartering the Bank of the United States; in 1833, the House was inundated with memorials supporting renewal of the charter and restoration of public deposits in that bank (23A-H1.1). Among all subjects addressed by the tabled petitions and memorials, the most thoroughly documented is that of slavery in its various aspects. Beginning in the 23d Congress (1833-35), a growing number of petitions from abolitionists and other social reformers concerning slavery were placed before the House by Representative John Quincy Adams and others; this was a direct challenge to a long standing practice of the House. Many petitioners sought congressional action to eliminate slavery from the District of Columbia (24A-H1.3, 25A-H1.8, 26A-H1.2); others advocated abolition of the slave trade (26A-H1.1) and of slavery itself (27A-H1.7, 28A-H1.1). The House's response to abolitionist pressure was to pass a resolution on December 21, 1837, to table all memorials, petitions, and papers on slavery. This resolution became known as the "gag rule," and similar language was soon adopted as Standing Rule 21 of the House. The "gag rule" itself became a major issue, not only among abolitionists but also among others who were repelled by its fundamentally antidemocratic and unconstitutional nature (25A-H1.7, 26A-H1.3, 27A-H1.6, 28A-H1.10). In 1840, the "gag rule" was repealed, but the House continued to table many slavery-related protests, including one large roll petition favoring repeal of the act of February 12, 1793, relating to fugitive slaves (28A-H1.8); several petitions opposing the admission of Texas as a State "especially because its constitution as far as it can, supports and perpetuates slavery" (29A-H1.1); and five petitions favoring repeal of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850 (33A-H1.18). Even through the 38th Congress (1863-65), the House continued to table some petitions on the subject of slavery.

**24.25 Other records** consist largely of records of roll call votes, beginning with the 13th Congress (1813-15). Keeping such records was and continues to be a function of the Clerk's office, which now has a bill clerk and a reading clerk for this purpose. Prior to 1813, the series consists of various papers that could not be placed in any other series; these are arranged by subject. Among later records in this series are papers relating to the reprimand of former Representative Samuel Houston for assaulting and beating William Stanbery, a Representative of Ohio, in 1832 (22A-K3); the letter of Governor-elect Nathaniel Prentice Banks of Massachusetts to the Speaker announcing his resignation from the House (35A-L2); and the original report on "Astronomical and Meteorological Observations Made at the Naval Observatory During the Year 1861" (37A-K2).

*Records of the Office of the Clerk of the House, 1st-90th Congresses (1789-1968)*

| Record Type | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Record Books | 161 ft. | 1789-1968 | 1st-90th |
| Transcribed Reports from Executive Departments | 7 ft. | 1789-1823 | 1st-17th |
| Transcribed Committee Reports | 16 ft. | 1789-1858 | 1st-35th |
| Indexes | 5 in. | 1789-1826 | 1st-19th |
| Political Committee Reports | 133 ft. | 1912-68 | 62d-90th |
| Lobbying Reports | 40 ft. | 1965-68 | 89th-90th |
| Other Records | 59 ft. | 1791-95, 1803-1968 | 2d-3d, 8th-90th |
| TOTAL: 416 ft. (includes 1,357 vols.) | | | |

**24.26** The principal series of records maintained by the Office of the Clerk are **record books** which consist of 979 bound volumes. These volumes include House bill books, House resolution books, Senate bill books, petition books, ledgers, registers of papers sent to the Senate, registers of papers received from the Senate, registers of committee reports, Presidential messages, and executive communications. Nineteenth-century records also include orders of the day, contingent accounts of the Clerk's Office, and membership lists of standing and select committees.

**24.27 Transcribed reports from executive departments** consist of 39 bound volumes of copies of reports from the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy that were copied into bound volumes by employees of the Office of the Clerk. The individual volumes often contain records of more than one Congress. They contain the earliest reports to Congress from the departments, including such important documents as Alexander Hamilton's "Report on the Public Credit."

**24.28 Transcribed committee reports** comprise 81 bound volumes and are otherwise similar in format to the transcribed reports from executive departments, except for the type of document transcribed. Individual volumes may cover numerous Congresses; for example, among the records of the 10th Congress is a volume of transcribed committee reports of the Committee on the District of Columbia for the 10th Congress through the 27th Congress (1807-41). These volumes can be extraordinarily useful for certain types of research because they bring together all the reports of a committee for the early Congresses—before the reports were printed in the *Congressional Serial Set.* The transcription of committee reports was discontinued during the 1850's, with the last volume containing the reports of the Committee of Claims.

**24.29 Indexes** to transcribed committee reports and transcribed reports and communications from Executive Departments were maintained for a short time only, except for the transcribed reports of the Committee of Claims, which were indexed through the first session of the 19th Congress.

**24.30** The **political committee reports** and the **lobby reports** are fairly recent additions to the responsibilities of the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The Clerk maintains these two series of records for public inspection to document the use of money and influence in elections and in the legislative process. Political committee reports were first required by Sections 5 and 6 of an Act of June 25, 1910 (Public Law 61-274), providing for public statements listing contributors and the amounts they contributed to support candidates in Congressional elections. These reports detail receipts and expenditures of the major Democratic and Republican National Committees, minor party committees, State committees, and political committees of other associations and organizations; for example, the records for 1916 contain information on the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage, the Socialist Party of Indiana, the Anti-Saloon League of America, and the Uptown Dry Goods Association of New York City, among others. In 1925, Congress enacted the Federal Corrupt Practices Act (Public Law 68-506, Title III); the act was actually part of the postal employees reclassification and compensation bill. Under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, any committee, association, or organization that accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of influencing or attempting to influence the election of candidates or Presidential or Vice Presidential electors, subject to certain limitations, was required to report quarterly on its contributions and expenditures. Under these two laws, political committees have provided lists of contributors, showing the amounts contributed, and frequently the contributors' addresses. Expenditures are also itemized. Prior to 1947 and since 1966, the records are arranged alphabetically by name of organization; for the intervening years, the records are arranged by report number.

**24.31** The lobby reports maintained by the Clerk are required by Title III of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 (Public Law 79-601), the Federal Regulation of Lobbying Act. This law requires that any person who engages himself for pay or for any consideration for the purpose of attempting to influence the passage or defeat of any legislation by Congress shall register with the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate and report on his activities in this regard. Although lobby reports have been required since 1946, the Clerk's collection of these registration statements at the National Archives is incomplete. An alphabetical index to lobbyists, 1946-65, and an index to report numbers, 1946-68, is available. The National Archives has a more complete series of lobbying reports, maintained by the Secretary of the Senate.

**24.32** Under the heading **other records** are such sundry items as letter books of the Clerk, copies of telegrams sent by departmental telegraph lines, check stubs showing expenditures from the contingent fund, receipts for records withdrawn, a roster of news reporters filed with the Clerk, 1855 (33C-C4), and monthly reports of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation submitted to the Clerk of the House pursuant to statutory requirement, 1933-40 (73d-76th Congresses). Since 1947, the records include oaths of office taken by House members; applications by House members for leave of absence; messages of the President giving notice of his approval of certain bills and resolutions; veto messages of the President, along with accompanying enrolled bill; and numerous other items filed with the Clerk. Since 1955, these records are arranged by type of clerk (Journal Clerk, Reading Clerk, and Enrolling Clerk), and the documents filed thereunder reflect the duties of each position. Also included in this series are individual voting records of each Member, 1937-68, and vouchers for official reporters to committees, 1933-68.

***Records of Impeachment Proceedings, 1st-90th Congresses (1789-1968)***

| Record Typ | Volume | Dates | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| Impeachment records | 18 ft. | 1816-1944 | 14th-78th |
| TOTAL: | 18 ft. | | |

## Impeachment Records

**24.33** According to the Congressional Quarterly's *Guide to Congress* (3d ed., 1982), impeachment is perhaps the most awesome though least used power of Congress. In impeachment proceedings, the House of Representatives determines whether impeachment is warranted and if so, prosecutes high ranking Federal officials. The Senate's role is that of judge and jury.

**24.34** Since 1789, impeachment proceedings have been initiated more than 60 times. Fifteen officers, including 1 President, 1 Senator, 1 Cabinet officer, and 12 Federal judges, have been tried. Of these, five have been convicted: John Pickering of the District Court of New Hampshire, 1804; West H. Humphries, of the District Court of the Eastern, Middle, and Western District of Tennessee, 1862; Robert W. Archbald of the Commerce Court, 1913; Halstead L. Ritter of the Southern District of Florida, 1936; and Harry E. Claiborne of the District of Nevada, 1986.

**24.35** The National Archives has records relating to most of the impeachment proceedings from 1816 to 1944 (see the following list). Additional records relating to impeachments are in the records of the Committee on the Judiciary, which has a major role in the impeachment process (see Chapter 14).

### *Records of Impeachment Proceedings in the General Records of the U.S. House of Representatives*

| Name | Office | File Number |
|---|---|---|
| Matthias B. Tallmadge | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of NY | 14B-A1, 15B-B1 |
| William Stephens | Judge, Dist. Ct., GA | 15B-A1 |
| William P. Van Ness | Judge, Dist. Ct., S. Dist of NY | 15B-C1 |
| Charles Tait | Judge, Dist. Ct., AL | 17B-A1 |
| Buckner Thruston | Judge, Circuit Ct., DC | 18B-A1, 24B-A1 |
| Joseph L. Smith | Judge, Supreme Ct., Terr. of FL | 18B-B1, 19B-A1 |
| Alfred Conkling | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of NY | 20B-A1, 21B-A1 26B-A1 |
| James H. Peck | Judge, Dist. Ct., MO | 21B-B1 |
| Benjamin Johnson | Judge, Superior Ct., Terr. of AR | 22B-A1 |
| P.K. Lawrence | Judge, Dist. Ct., E. Dist of LA | 25B-A1 |
| John McLean | Justice, U.S. Supreme Ct., 7th Dist. | 26B-B1 |
| Robert C. Grier | Justice, U.S. Supreme Ct. | 33B-A1 |
| John C. Watrous | Judge, Dist. Ct., TX | 34B-A1, 35B-B1 36B-A1 |
| Thomas Irwin | Judge, Dist. Ct., W. Dist. of PA | 35B-A1 |
| Andrew G. Miller | Judge, Dist. Ct., WI | 38B-A1 |
| Andrew Johnson | President of the United States | 40B-A1 |
| Richard Busteed | Judge, Dist. Ct., AL | 40B-B1, 41B-B1 |
| Mark W. Delahay | Judge, Dist. Ct., KS | 42B-A1 |
| Charles T. Sherman | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of OH | 42B-B1 |
| William W. Belknap | Secretary of War | 44B-A1 |
| Henry W. Blodgett | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of IL | 45B-A1 |
| George F. Seward | Counsel General, Shanghai | 45B-A1, 46B-A1 |
| Samuel B. Axtell | C. Justice, Supreme Ct., Terr. of NM | 48B-A1 |
| Aleck Boarman | Judge, Dist. Ct., W. Dist. of LA | 51B-A1 |
| J.G. Jenkins | Judge, Circuit Ct., 7th Circuit | 53B-A1 |
| Augustus J. Ricks | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of OH | 53B-B1 |
| Charles Swayne | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of FL | 58B-A1 |
| Robert W. Archbald | Judge, Dist. Ct., Middle Dist. of PA | 60B-A1, 62B-A1 |
| A.G. Dayton | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of WV | 60B-B1 |
| James B. McPherson and James B. Holland | Judges, Circuit Ct., Dist. of PA | 60B-C1 |
| Lebbeus R. Wilfley | Judge, U.S. Court for China | 60B-D1 |
| Supreme Court Justices | Justices of the Supreme Court | 60B-E1 |
| E.S. Farrington | Judge, Dist. Ct., NV | 61B-A1 |
| A.S. Moore | Judge of 2d Div., Dist. Ct. of AK | 61B-B1 |
| Daniel T. Wright | Judge, Dist. Ct., DC | 61B-C1 |
| Robert W. Archbald | Associate Judge, U.S. Commerce Ct. | 62B-A1 |
| Cornelius H. Hanford | Judge, Dist. Ct., W. Dist. of WA | 62B-B1 |
| H. Snowden Marshall | U.S. Dist. Atty., S. Dist. of NY | 64B-A1 |
| Fed. Reserve Board | Members of the Federal Reserve Board | 64B-B1 |
| Kenesaw M. Landis | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of IL | 66B-A1 |
| George W. English | Judge, Dist. Ct., E. Dist. of IL | 69B-A1 |
| Phillip Forman | U.S. Attorney for Dist. of NJ | 72B-A1 |
| Harold Louderback | Judge, Dist. Ct., N. Dist. of CA | 72B-B1, 73B-A1 |
| Halstead L. Ritter | Judge, Dist. Ct., S. Dist. of FL | 73B-B1, 74B-A1 |
| Ferdinand A. Geiger | Judge, Dist. Ct., E. Dist. of WI | 75B-A1 |
| Frances Perkins, James L. Houghteling, and Gerard D. Reilly | Sec. of Labor, Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, and Solicitor, Department of Labor | 76B-A1 |
| Albert W. Johnson and Albert L. Watson | Judges, Dist. Ct., Middle Dist. of PA | 78B-A1 |

# Chapter 25

# RECENT RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 1969–87

**Records of the Modern House Committees and Offices, 1969–87 (91st–99th Congress)**

| Committee Name | Volume in feet | Years | Congresses |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Agriculture | 152 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 2. Appropriations | 141 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 3. Armed Services | 1,064 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 4. Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs | 247 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 5. Budget | 141 | 1974–87 | 91st–99th |
| 6. District of Columbia | 105 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 7. Education and Labor | 241 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 8. Energy and Commerce | 510 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 9. Foreign Affairs | 918 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 10. Government Operations | 2,306 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 11. House Administration | 580 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 12. Interior and Insular Affairs | 1,178 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 13. Judiciary | 2,402 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 14. Merchant Marine and Fisheries | 742 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 15. Post Office and Civil Service | 129 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 16. Public Works and Transportation | 438 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 17. Rules | 73 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 18. Science, Space and Technology | 114 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 19. Small Business | 49 | 1974–87 | 91st–99th |
| 20. Standards of Official Conduct | 198 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 21. Veteran's Affairs | 262 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 22. Ways and Means | 720 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 23. House Un-American Activities Committee | 1,245 | 1935–77 | 91st–99th |
| 24. Select and Special Committees and Commissions | 1,085 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
| 25. Non-committee records | 2,883 | 1969–87 | 91st–99th |
|  | TOTAL: 17,923 |  |  |

*Stack area 9E2 in the National Archives Building houses modern records of the United States House of Representatives.*

# CHAPTER 25

## RECENT RECORDS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 1969-87

**25.1** The foregoing chapters contain descriptions of the records of each of the committees of the House from the beginning of the 1st Congress to the end of the 90th Congress (1789-1968). The present chapter provides a brief summary of the records that have been generated by the House during the last 20 years.

**25.2** The life-cycle of the modern records of the House of Representatives coincides roughly with the two-year cycles of the Congress itself. At the end of each Congress the clerks of each House committee are required to deliver to the Clerk of the House "all bills, joint resolutions, petitions, and other papers referred to the committee, together with all evidence taken by such committee under the order of the House during said Congress and not reported to the House."[1] The Office of the Clerk maintains the records for four years, and then retires them to the National Archives for permanent retention.

**25.3** While this is the ideal life-cycle for House records, it rarely occurs in such a clean and uncomplicated way. Committee staff members retain certain series of records for reference from one Congress to the next, and some series of records may be retained by the committees for even longer periods of time. Experience has shown that some records will be retired 5, 10, and 20 years after the date when the major body of records were retired. Additions to the committee records from 1969-87 may still be received by the National Archives in the early years of the 21st century. Whereas the records described in the previous chapters are considered stable with few additions or deletions likely to occur, the records described in this chapter have not been retired long enough to stabilize—more records will undoubtedly be retired in the near future, and some of the material described in this chapter may eventually be discarded as having no permanent value.

**25.4** As this volume goes to press, at the close of the 100th Congress, most of the records of the first 97 Congresses will have been retired to the National Archives; the records of the 98th and 99th Congresses will be in storage with the Clerk of the House, awaiting transfer to the National Archives; and the records of the 100th Congress will remain, for the most part, in the file cabinets of the House committees, subcommittees, and staff. Because of the dispersion of records in literally hundreds of individual locations, it has been impossible to survey and describe those most recently created.

**25.5** Furthermore, the records described in this chapter are not currently available for research because the rules of the House of Representatives provide that no records less than 30 years old that have not been previously published are open for inspection. Under the current House Rules the earliest records described in this chapter will not be available to researchers until the year 1999.

**25.6** Given the various limitations, this chapter provides: 1) brief descriptions of the major series of records received from each of the standing committees during this period; 2) the names of select committees and commissions that have retired records during the years 1969 to 1988, and the volume of records that each has retired; and, 3) a list of the series of records retired from the Office of the Clerk and the Office of the Sergeant at Arms.

**25.7** The records of the House Internal Security Committee (better known as the House Un-American Activities Committee or HUAC) are described in this chapter because they present nearly all the control problems common to recent House records. Although the committee existed since 1935 the bulk of its records were not retired to the Archives until after the committee was abolished in 1975. Part of the records of the committee were retained and are still in the possession of the House Judiciary Committee; they should be retired to the Archives in the near future. Because the records that have been retired are extensive and complex, their arrangement and description cannot be completed until the records still outstanding have been received and incorporated. In addition, because the records of this committee are primarily investigative in character, a large proportion of them will remain closed for a period of 50 years.

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[1] This rule was adopted under the rule revision of 1880 and has retained its present form since it was adopted on Feb. 27, 1880. According to Asher C. Hinds, "It was a new rule, intended to give greater security to the files of the House." See *Hinds' Precedents of the House of Representatives of the United States* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1907) vol. 5, p. 1099. During recent years it has been embodied in House Rule XXXVI.

## Records of House Standing Committees, 91st-99th Congresses

**25.8 Agriculture Committee, 1969-86, 152 feet:** The records of this committee consist of about 8 feet of records per Congress from the 91st-93d Congresses (1969-75), and over 20 feet per Congress for the years after 1975. The records from each Congress include bill files, executive communications, and petitions and memorials that were referred to the committee; minutes of meetings; copies of committee prints and printed hearings; committee calendars; and watershed project files. Beginning with the 94th Congress, the full committee and subcommittee general correspondence files are preserved. These files are extensive, totaling over 20 feet for the 97th Congress (1981-82).

**25.9 Appropriations Committee, 1969-86, 141 feet:** As noted in Chapter 3, the unpublished records from this committee are missing from 1947 through 1968, the end of the period covered in that chapter. Only after 1972 were any unpublished records preserved. Beginning with the 93d Congress (1973-74), general correspondence files were preserved, and after the 94th Congress, the collection expands to include bill files; legislative studies by the Surveys and Investigations Staff; and copies of printed hearings, reports, and bills and resolutions.

**25.10 Armed Services Committee, 1969-86, 1,064 feet:** The records of the Armed Services Committee are among the most voluminous and most complex of any of the modern committees. They average between 60 feet and 170 feet per Congress. Research in these records is complicated by several factors, notably national defense classification markings that must be removed before materials may be released to most researchers. Some types of research are difficult because a large part of the records are identified as those of individual staff members, rather than as the records of the full committee or a subcommittee.

**25.11** The records of this committee consist of a series of full committee bill files; executive communications; petitions and memorials; and reports that are required by law to be filed with the committee. Included are "Front Office Files" that contain committee housekeeping records as well as those of other activities; and collections of transcripts of full committee meetings.

**25.12** The records of the subcommittees are the most complex and the most difficult to locate. These records are usually identified by the name of the subcommittee, the staff member who prepared the file, and the specific subject to which it is related. There are usually large collections of files from the Subcommittee on Investigations; the Military Personnel Subcommittee; and the Subcommittee on Military Installations and Facilities. Files identified by the names of key staff members, Frank Slatinshek, John Ford, William Hogan, Ralph Marshal, George Norris, Kim Wincup, and others, appear repeatedly in the records of this committee. Files are often identified as, for example, "Subcommittee on Investigations (Mr. Lally): Case file for the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard," or, "Mr. Norris's Files (Seapower Subcommittee), Navy Shipbuilding Claims, hearings."

**25.13 Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee, 1969-86, 247 feet:** This committee was known as the Committee on Banking and Currency from its creation in 1865 until its name was changed to Banking, Currency and Housing in 1975. The committee existed under that name for 2 years and was renamed Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs in 1977. Its records range from 10 feet to 40 feet per Congress. They consist of executive communications, petitions and memorials, and copies of bills and resolutions that were referred to the committee. Other records that appear for each Congress are copies of the committee calendar and printed hearings and reports. Beginning with the 94th Congress, the committee records begin to include general correspondence, and records from the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and the Subcommittee on Historic Preservation. In some cases the subcommittee files contain bill files and correspondence files.

**25.14 Budget Committee, 1974-86, 141 feet:** The Budget Committee was created under the 1974 Budget and Impoundment Act, as a part of an attempt by Congress to regain some measure of control over the budget process. The committee began functioning in the 94th Congress but until the 96th Congress (1979-80), only copies of committee hearings and prints and newspaper clipping files were preserved. The records of the 96th Congress contain a small general subject file along with memoranda and correspondence. The files of the 97th Congress are swollen by massive correspondence files labeled Oklahoma correspondence (21 ft.) and non-Oklahoma correspondence (16 ft.). A large part of this correspondence is that of the committee's chairman, Jim Jones of Oklahoma.

**25.15** Although there are 141 feet of records shown for the Budget Committee little or no material documenting its formative years has as yet been transferred to the National Archives. It is possible that correspondence, memoranda, minutes of organizational meetings, staff directives, and other types of material will eventually be retired to document the creation of the committee.

**25.16 District of Columbia Committee, 1969-86, 105 feet:** The records of this committee average 10 feet to 15 feet per Congress. They consist of executive communications, bill files, minutes of meetings, printed hearings, and committee prints. After the 95th Congress, the records contain a series of acts of the D.C. Council, drafts of proposed legislation, and committee oversight files.

**25.17 Education and Labor Committee, 1969-86, 241 feet:** The records of this committee have retained roughly the same character throughout the period under consideration. They contain copies of printed full committee and subcommittee hearings and transcripts of unprinted hearings; executive communications; other reports referred to the committee from professional societies and other organizations; copies of all bills referred to the committee; minutes of meetings; transcripts of markup sessions; and calendars and monthly reports. The committee records of the 93d Congress also include records of the Pension Task Force and a legislative history of ERISA (12 ft.). The 97th Congress files contain records of the Subcommittee on Employment Opportunities (3 ft.).

**25.18 Energy and Commerce Committee, 1969-86, 510 feet:** The Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee existed from 1892 until 1975 when its name were changed to the Committee on Commerce and Health. This new name lasted for less than 2 weeks when the former name was restored. In 1981 its name was changed to Energy and Commerce. The committee's files average over 25 feet per Congress for the 91st and 92d Congresses (1969-72), and over 60 feet per Congress for the 93d through 99th Congresses (1973-86). The records consist of bill files, executive communications, minutes of meetings, committee legislative calendars, chronological correspondence files, and copies of committee prints and printed hearings. Sometimes, but not always, there are executive session transcripts, petitions and memorials, and original Presidential messages. The files of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation are generally full, consisting of hearing files, case files, and other investigative records. The activities of other subcommittees are less well documented.

**25.19 Foreign Affairs Committee, 1969-86, 918 feet:** The committee was known as the Committee on International Relations from March 19, 1975 until February 5, 1979, at which time it reverted back to its original name. The records of the committee have been consistently voluminous and complex, and they are arranged under three main headings: 1) full committee records; 2) subcommittee records; and 3) staff member files.

**25.20** Full committee records generally include bill files, petitions and memorials, minutes of committee meetings, executive communications, prints of committee reports and hearings, transcripts of meetings and hearings, and a large number of small correspondence files. The numerous correspondence files retired by this committee represent the work of a staff member, a subcommittee or a working group, or correspondence related to some special activity or subject. Other types of documents found among the full committee records include committee calendars, General Accounting Office reports, transcripts of markup sessions or committee meetings, travel vouchers, requisitions, and other committee administrative and financial records.

**25.21** For most of the period covered in this chapter each of the Foreign Affairs subcommittees retired its own records with box numbers that distinctively identify the subcommittee of origin. The following records were retired by subcommittees during the 95th Congress (1977-78): International Operations Subcommittee (IOPERS, 15 ft.); Subcommittee on International Economic Policy and Trade (IEP&T, 4 ft.); Subcommittee on International Organizations (SIO, 6 ft.); Subcommittee on International Security and Scientific Affairs (ISSA, 9 ft.); Subcommittee on International Development (ID 3 ft.); Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs (A&PA, 2 ft.).

**25.22** The files of Foreign Affairs Committee staff members are readily identifiable because the name of the staff member appears as part of the box number. During the 95th Congress there are over 35 ft. of records from "dlStoner," "nmCarmen," and "lGulick." Other staff members whose records appear in significant volume are "maCzarnecki," "bBenson," and "rjBullock."

**25.23 Government Operations Committee, 1969-86, 2,306 feet:** The Committee on Government Operations has the most voluminous records of any committee in the House. At the end of each 2-year congressional session the committee retires over 200 ft. of records. They usually are split fairly evenly between records of the full committee and records of the subcommittees.

**25.24** The records of the full committee consist of legislative bill files; executive communications, largely annual reports and other reports from Government agencies; petitions and memorials; General Accounting Office studies, reports, and decisions; State Department inspection reports; files on negotiated sales of governmental property; committee investigation files; transcripts of committee and subcommittee meetings; and administrative and financial records relating to the business of the full committee or its subcommittees. Some of the executive communications and other reports from executive departments are security classified and are maintained in top-secret vaults.

**25.25** This committee has traditionally used subcommittees and retired records identified by the subcommittee of origin. The subcommittee records are usually voluminous, but for most recent Congresses, they have not been thoroughly surveyed or arranged. The Government Activities and Transportation Subcommittee and the Legislation and National Security Subcommittee have consistently generated large collections of records (over 60 ft. per Congress), while the Subcommittee on Commerce, Consumer and Monetary Affairs; the Subcommittee on Information and Individual Rights; and the Subcommittee on Energy and Natural Resources have generated relatively small collections (under 15 ft. per Congress). The names of some of the subcommittees of Government Operations have changed over time.

**25.26 House Administration Committee, 1969-86, 580 feet:** This committee falls in the middle range in volume of unpublished records preserved, averaging less than 60 feet per Congress. Over half of this volume is made up of telephone bills, telegraph bills, statements of disbursements and other financial documentation. Other records include the official papers for all the enrolled bills, records relating to the travel mileage of House Members, and election contests. Particularly useful records for some types of research are the Monthly Committee Summary Reports that are prepared by each House committee, listing all activities, expenses, and committee employees, and filed each month with the House Administration Committee. Another series of records that is especially useful for the study of Congress are the subject files of this committee which include folders on such subjects as the House Restaurant, the House General Counsel, access to House records, expenses of district offices of Members, Capitol Pages, and many other subjects related to the administration of the House.

**25.27** Among the records of the Subcommittee on Printing are the minutes of meetings of the Joint Committee on Printing. The records of the Subcommittee on Libraries and Memorials usually include the files of the Joint Committee on the Library, in addition to other records of the subcommittee.

**25.28 Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, 1969-86, 1,178 feet:** The files of this committee have averaged over 150 feet per Congress since the 95th (1977-78). The most outstanding characteristic of the records of this committee during recent years is the attention paid to the files of the minority members, which have recently amounted to about one-third of the total volume of committee records. The committee records usually consist of: bill files, transcripts of meetings not related to specific legislation, executive communications, petitions and memorials, minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings, committee calendars, and minority files. The minority files may include bill files, alphabetical subject files, and, occasionally, subcommittee minority files.

**25.29 Judiciary Committee, 1969-86, 2,492 feet:** The records of the Judiciary Committee are consistently among the most voluminous in the House. They are occasionally augmented by special collections of records relating to the activities of the committee regarding significant national events such as the Nixon Impeachment Investigation in the 93d Congress (484 ft.). The records relating to the investigation consist of citizen mail (256 ft.), investigative files (224 ft.), index books, and publications of the committee.

**25.30** Other extraordinary records are those of the investigations relating to the proposed impeachment of Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, 92d Congress (8 ft.) and the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller (25 ft.) to be the Vice President of the United States; massive petition drives, such as those for the "gay bill of rights" (25 ft.) and the "family protection act" (13 ft.) from the 97th Congress; and by huge correspondence files, such as that concerning school busing and school prayer in the 92d Congress (16 ft.).

**25.31** The records of the full Judiciary Committee are kept separate from those of the Judiciary Committee subcommittees. Full committee records usually include bill files; transcripts of full committee and subcommittee hearings; front office files, which include the administrative and financial records of the committee; and general counsel files, which include the petitions and memorials, reports of committees, and certain files relating to the duties of the chairperson.

**25.32** The subcommittees of the Judiciary Committee each maintain at least one distinct series of permanently valuable records. The Immigration Subcommittee maintains three such series: Private immigration bill files, general subcommittee correspondence and subject files, and cases referred to the committee under sections 212(d) and 204 of the immigration statutes. The Subcommittee on Administrative Law and Governmental Relations maintained a series of private claims files along with the general subcommittee file. The Subcommittees on Courts, Civil Liberties and the Administration of Justice; on Crime; on Criminal Justice; and on Monopolies and Commercial Law, each retired a single series of subcommittee files. The Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights retired some rather large files on special subjects such as the Voting Rights Act, Revenue Sharing, and Drug Abuse. The names and special jurisdictions of the subcommittees changed over time, but the above is a general description of what the researcher will find in the records of the 1970's and 80's.

**25.33 Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, 1969-86, 742 feet:** The Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee falls in the middle range of House committees in terms of the volume of unpublished records preserved. The records for most Congresses contain bill files, executive communications, transcripts of executive session hearings, copies of printed hearings, minutes, and administrative files including vouchers. The committee papers also usually contain substantial records from the minority staff and several collections of subcommittee records. Records of the 96th Congress, for example, contain a collection of files of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment (17 ft.), the Subcommittee on the Panama Canal (8 ft.), and minority files (24 ft.).

**25.34 Post Office and Civil Service Committee, 1969-86, 129 feet:** The records of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee usually consist of a series of full committee legislative files and records from one or more subcommittees. The full committee legislative files are largely bill files, but they also include petitions and memorials that were referred to the committee, copies of printed committee hearings and prints, and transcripts of executive session meetings. The files of the Subcommittee on Manpower and the Civil Service have been extensive, and include large subject files on topics such as senior executive service, equal employment opportunity, whistleblower protection, reductions-in-force, and furloughs.

**25.35 Public Works and Transportation Committee, 1969-86, 438 feet:** The records of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation generally consist of records retired by the full committee. The bulk of these records is usually divided between bill files and executive communications, but also includes the petitions and memorials and Presidential Messages that were referred to the committee; copies of printed committee hearings, reports, and prints; and small correspondence files. Minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings, and transcripts of executive session meetings and hearings are sometimes retired with the other records at the end of each Congress, but a large collection (minutes from 1951-72, and executive transcripts from 1965-72) were retired as a distinct series in the records of the 92d Congress.

**25.36** Survey Resolution files for the period from 1947 through 1980 (18 ft.) are included in the 95th Congress committee records. Survey Resolution files were generated by the Subcommittee on Rivers and Harbors, the Subcommittee on Flood Control, and, more recently, the Subcommittee on Water Resources, in response to resolutions to study the feasibility of public works project proposals that are usually prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**25.37 Rules Committee, 1969-86, 73 feet:** The unpublished records of the Rules Committee are comparatively sparse, averaging less than 12 feet per Congress. They consist of files of House bills referred directly to the committee, original jurisdiction measures reported, and rules granted, along with transcripts of hearings, minutes of meetings, and small files relating to the administration of the committee. The records of this committee sometimes contain bill files from subcommittees or transcripts of subcommittee meetings, such as the 91st Congress Subcommittee on Legislative Reorganization or the 97th Congress Subcommittee on Rules. Also occasionally included are records relating to other specially created bodies such as the Task Force on the Budget Process (97th Congress, 2 ft.).

**25.38 Science, Space and Technology Committee, 1969-86, 114 feet:** The name of this committee has changed frequently during its short history: It has been known as the Committee on Science and Astronautics (1958-74), the Committee on Science and Technology (1975-86), and the Committee on Science, Space and Technology (1987- ). The records from 1969-78 contain bill files (called Legislative histories), executive communications, and copies of printed committee hearings and prints. Beginning in 1981 the records contain transcripts of hearings and markup sessions, and minutes of full committee and subcommittee meetings.

**25.39 Small Business Committee, 1975-86, 49 feet:** This committee became a standing committee on January 3, 1975, having been a select committee since 1941. Since becoming a standing committee its records have consisted of copies of printed committee hearings, reports, and prints; transcripts of full committee and subcommittee meetings; and copies of the monthly committee activity reports. For some Congresses records of subcommittees have been preserved, such as those of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Anti-Trust, the Robinson-Patman Act and Related Matters, and the Subcommittee on Commodities and Services, all from the 94th Congress.

**25.40 Standards of Official Conduct Committee 1969-86, 198 feet:** This committee was created as a standing committee on April 13, 1967, during the 90th Congress. The records from the earliest years of the committee are very sparse, consisting only of copies of committee prints, bills referred to the committee, transcripts of committee business meetings, and a few bill files. The records average less than 3 feet per Congress except for those of the Korean Influence Investigation in the records of the 95th Congress (1977-78); the Charles H. Wilson Investigation, the Iranian Inquiry, and the South African Inquiry in the 96th Congress (1979-80); and the ABSCAM Investigation in the 97th Congress (1981-82). The voluminous investigative files of the Korean Influence Investigation consist of a "memoranda chron file" (5 ft.), an "organizational chron file" (5 ft.), a clipping file (1 ft.), Congressmen's files (40 ft.), and exhibits and documents (60 ft.).

**25.41 Veterans' Affairs Committee, 1969-86, 262 feet:** The records retired by the Veterans' Affairs Committee consist of bill files, petitions and memorials, copies of printed committee hearings and prints, executive communications, and several correspondence files. Correspondence files constitute the bulk of the committee's records. There is usually a general correspondence file, an individual case correspondence file, and a voluminous correspondence file arranged according to subject. The subject file is arranged alphabetically under headings such as: compensation, education, hospitals, individual cases, legislation, pensions, Presidential messages, and veteran's organizations.

**25.42 Ways and Means Committee, 1969-86, 720 feet:** The recent records preserved by the Ways and Means Committee are not among the most voluminous of House committee records, but they are probably the most carefully prepared records of any House committee. The records of this committee average 60 feet per Congress; however, the files of the 97th Congress are swollen by a massive form petition drive which is preserved under the title "tax petition number 146" (142 ft.).

**25.43** The extensive and thoroughly documented minutes of committee meetings that are described in paragraph 21.64 continue to be maintained through the 100th Congress, as is the bound series of copies of all legislation introduced, Presidential Messages, executive communications, and reports from other departments and agencies. The bound volumes of documents average over 8 feet per Congress, and the minutes, which are also bound, average 5 feet per Congress. The other records preserved by the committee support the preceding series. For most Congresses there are bill files, petitions and memorials; "green correspondence" or reading files (outgoing letters arranged by month, and thereunder alphabetically by name of addressee); and occasionally records of subcommittees. The records of the 95th Congress contain records of the Subcommittee on Public Assistance and Unemployment Compensation (PAUC). Among the records of the PAUC Subcommittee are the minutes, transcripts, and roll call votes of the Welfare Reform Subcommittee, which was constituted of members of the House Agriculture, Education and Labor, and Ways and Means Committees.

**25.44** The Ways and Means Committee Historical File cited in paragraph 21.76 was retired with the records of the 92d Congress.

**25.45 House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), 1934-77, 1,245 feet:** This committee dates its origin from the establishment of the Select Committee on Un-American Activities Committee (the Dies Committee) in 1938. In 1945 it was made a standing committee—the House Un-American Activities Committee or HUAC, as it was commonly known. In 1969 its name was changed to the Committee on Internal Security. In 1975 the committee was abolished and its jurisdiction transferred to the Judiciary Committee.

> The committee was authorized to carry out the following activities: make from time to time investigations of (1) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (2) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (3) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.[8]

**25.46** The records that have been preserved from this committee consist of files of the Administrative Section, the Legal Section, the Investigative Section, the Research Section, the Finance Section, the Files and Reference Section, the Editing Section, and the General Counsel, plus the publications of the committee. The documentation covers the entire period of existance of the committee and extends as far back as when the Select Committee was chaired by Martin Dies. Some records involve investigations into the activities of the Ku Klux Klan, American Nazis, members of the Hollywood Screen Actors Guild, and civil rights and anti-war activists of the 1960s. At least 444 feet of the records consist of investigative files on individuals and organizations along with a set of related index cards.

**25.47** The records of this committee are quite voluminous and have not been finally arranged or indexed. It is not possible to conduct research efficiently in these records at this time.

## Records of Select and Special Committees and Commissions of the House, 91st-100th Congresses

**25.48** The National Archives holds records for the select and special committees and commissions listed below. Like the recent records of the standing committees, the measurements of these records are tentative because more records from these committees may eventually be retired, and non-record material may be removed from the records that are now in the custody of the National Archives.

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[8] U.S. Congress, House, *Constitution, Jefferson's Manual, and Rules of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ninetieth Congress*, H. Doc. 529, 89th Cong., 2d sess., 1967, page 354.

*Records of Select and Special Committees and Commissions, 1968-87*

| Name of Committee or Commission | Volume | Congresses |
|---|---|---|
| Select Committee on Small Business | 5 ft. | 91st-92d |
| Select Committee on Crime | 3 ft. | 91st-92d |
| Select Committee on the House Restaurant | 1 in. | 91st |
| Special Comm. to Invest. Campaign Expenditures | 14 ft. | 92d |
| Select Committee on Committees | 25 ft. | 93d |
| Ad Hoc Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf | 84 ft. | 94th-95th |
| Select Committee on the Outer Continental Shelf | 30 ft. | 96th |
| Select Committee on Aging | 165 ft. | 94th-99th |
| Committee on Missing Persons in South East Asia | 9 ft. | 94th |
| Select Committee on Professional Sports | 13 ft. | 94th |
| House Commission on Information and Facilities | 20 ft. | 94th |
| Commission on Administrative Review | 16 ft. | 94th |
| Select Committee on Assassinations | 419 ft. | 95th |
| Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control | 21 ft. | 95th-96th |
| Ad Hoc Committee on Energy | 4 ft. | 95th |
| Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence | 5 ft. | 95th-99th |
| Select Committee on Congressional Operations | 17 ft. | 95th-96th |
| Select Committee on Population | 52 ft. | 95th-96th |
| Select Committee on Committees | 16 ft. | 96th |
| Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe | 6 ft. | 97th |
| Select Committee on Hunger | 9 ft. | 98th-99th |
| Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards | 9 ft. | 98th |
| Select Committee on Iran Contra | 156 ft. | 100th |
| TOTAL: | 1,098 ft. | |

## Non-Committee Records of the House of Representatives, 91st-99th Congresses

**25.49** Over 2,883 feet of non-committee records were retired to the Archives between 1969 and 1987. These records are similar to and often continuations of the same series that are described in Chapter 24. Among these records are those of the Office of the Clerk of the House, including the Bill Clerk, the Enrolling Clerk, and the Journal Clerk (1,133 ft.); records from the Office of Records and Registration including Lobby Reports (565 ft.); House Candidate and Political Committee Reports (1,023 ft.); records from the Office of the Sergeant at Arms, including Members financial accounts (70 ft.) and Members individual voting records (92 ft.); and videotapes of televised floor coverage of the House during the 98th and 99th Congresses (over 150 ft.).

# Appendices

A. Speakers of the House of Representatives

B. Floor Leaders of the House of Representatives

C. Clerks of the House of Representatives

D. Bibliography

E. Glossary of Legislative and Archival Terms

F. Dates of the sessions of the U.S. Congress, 1789-1988

G. Finding aids for records of the U.S. House of Representatives

H. Microform publications of records of the U.S. House of Representatives

# Appendix A

## SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| Congress | Name | State | Date Elected |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1st | Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg | PA | April 1, 1789 |
| 2d | Jonathan Trumbull | CT | Oct. 24, 1791 |
| 3d | Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg | PA | Dec. 2, 1793 |
| 4th | Jonathan Dayton | NJ | Dec. 7, 1795 |
| 5th | Jonathan Dayton | NJ | May 15, 1797 |
| 6th | Theodore Sedgwick | MA | Dec. 2, 1799 |
| 7th | Nathaniel Macon | NC | Dec. 7, 1801 |
| 8th | Nathaniel Macon | NC | Oct. 17, 1803 |
| 9th | Nathaniel Macon | NC | Dec. 2, 1805 |
| 10th | Joseph B. Varnum | MA | Oct. 26, 1807 |
| 11th | Joseph B. Varnum | MA | May 22, 1809 |
| 12th | Henry Clay | KY | Nov. 4, 1811 |
| 13th | Henry Clay | KY | May 24, 1813 |
| | Langdon Cheves | SC | Jan. 19, 1814 |
| 14th | Henry Clay | KY | Dec. 4, 1815 |
| 15th | Henry Clay | KY | Dec. 1, 1817 |
| 16th | Henry Clay | KY | Dec. 6, 1819 |
| | John W. Taylor | NY | Nov. 15, 1820 |
| 17th | Philip P. Barbour | VA | Dec. 4, 1821 |
| 18th | Henry Clay | KY | Dec. 1, 1823 |
| 19th | John W. Taylor | NY | Dec. 5, 1825 |
| 20th | Andrew Stevenson | VA | Dec. 3, 1827 |
| 21st | Andrew Stevenson | VA | Dec. 7, 1829 |
| 22d | Andrew Stevenson | VA | Dec. 5, 1831 |
| 23d | Andrew Stevenson | VA | Dec. 2, 1833 |
| | John Bell | TN | June 2, 1834 |
| 24th | James K. Polk | TN | Dec. 7, 1835 |
| 25th | James K. Polk | TN | Sept. 4, 1837 |
| 26th | Robert M. T. Hunter | VA | Dec. 16, 1839 |
| 27th | John White | KY | May 31, 1841 |
| 28th | John W. Jones | VA | Dec. 4, 1843 |
| 29th | John W. Davis | IN | Dec. 1, 1845 |
| 30th | Robert C. Winthrop | MA | Dec. 6, 1847 |
| 31st | Howell Cobb | GA | Dec. 22, 1849 |
| 32d | Linn Boyd | KY | Dec. 1, 1851 |
| 33d | Linn Boyd | KY | Dec. 5, 1853 |
| 34th | Nathaniel P. Banks | MA | Feb. 2, 1856 |
| 35th | James L. Orr | SC | Dec. 7, 1857 |
| 36th | William Pennington | NJ | Feb. 1, 1860 |
| 37th | Galusha A. Grow | PA | July 4, 1861 |
| 38th | Schuyler Colfax | IN | Dec. 7, 1863 |
| 39th | Schuyler Colfax | IN | Dec. 4, 1865 |
| 40th | Schuyler Colfax | IN | Mar. 4, 1867 |
| | Theodore M. Pomeroy | NY | Mar. 3, 1869 |
| 41st | James G. Blaine | ME | Mar. 4, 1869 |
| 42d | James G. Blaine | ME | Mar. 4, 1871 |
| 43d | James G. Blaine | ME | Dec. 1, 1873 |
| 44th | Michael C. Kerr | IN | Dec. 6, 1875 |
| | Samuel J. Randall | PA | Dec. 4, 1876 |
| 45th | Samuel J. Randall | PA | Oct. 15, 1877 |
| 46th | Samuel J. Randall | PA | Mar. 18, 1879 |
| 47th | J. Warren Keifer | OH | Dec. 5, 1881 |
| 48th | John G. Carlisle | KY | Dec. 3, 1883 |
| 49th | John G. Carlisle | KY | Dec. 7, 1885 |

## Appendix A—Continued

### SPEAKERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| Congress | Name | State | Date Elected |
|---|---|---|---|
| 50th | John G. Carlisle | KY | Dec. 5, 1887 |
| 51st | Thomas B. Reed | ME | Dec. 2, 1889 |
| 52d | Charles F. Crisp | GA | Dec. 8, 1891 |
| 53d | Charles F. Crisp | ME | Aug. 7, 1893 |
| 54th | Thomas B. Reed | ME | Dec. 2, 1895 |
| 55th | Thomas B. Reed | ME | Mar. 15, 1897 |
| 56th | David B. Henderson | IA | Dec. 4, 1899 |
| 57th | David B. Henderson | IA | Dec. 2, 1901 |
| 58th | Joseph G. Cannon | IL | Nov. 9, 1903 |
| 59th | Joseph G. Cannon | IL | Dec. 4, 1905 |
| 60th | Joseph G. Cannon | IL | Dec. 2, 1907 |
| 61st | Joseph G. Cannon | IL | Mar. 15, 1909 |
| 62d | Champ Clark | MO | Apr. 4, 1911 |
| 63d | Champ Clark | MO | Apr. 7, 1913 |
| 64th | Champ Clark | MO | Dec. 6, 1915 |
| 65th | Champ Clark | MO | Apr. 2, 1917 |
| 66th | Frederick H. Gillett | MA | May 19, 1919 |
| 67th | Frederick H. Gillett | MA | Apr. 11, 1921 |
| 68th | Frederick H. Gillett | MA | Dec. 3, 1923 |
| 69th | Nicholas Longworth | OH | Dec. 7, 1925 |
| 70th | Nicholas Longworth | OH | Dec. 5, 1927 |
| 71st | Nicholas Longworth | OH | Apr. 15, 1929 |
| 72d | John N. Garner | TX | Dec. 7, 1931 |
| 73d | Henry T. Rainey | IL | Mar. 9, 1933 |
| 74th | Joseph W. Byrns | TN | Jan. 3, 1935 |
|  | William B. Bankhead | AL | June 4, 1936 |
| 75th | William B. Bankhead | AL | Jan. 5, 1937 |
| 76th | William B. Bankhead | AL | Jan. 3, 1939 |
|  | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Sept. 16, 1940 |
| 77th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 3, 1941 |
| 78th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 6, 1943 |
| 79th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 3, 1945 |
| 80th | Joseph W. Martin | MA | Jan. 3, 1947 |
| 81st | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 3, 1949 |
| 82d | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 3, 1951 |
| 83d | Joseph W. Martin | MA | Jan. 3, 1953 |
| 84th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 5, 1955 |
| 85th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 3, 1957 |
| 86th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 7, 1959 |
| 87th | Sam T. Rayburn | TX | Jan. 3, 1961 |
| 88th | John W. McCormack | MA | Jan. 9, 1963 |
| 89th | John W. McCormack | MA | Jan. 4, 1965 |
| 90th | John W. McCormack | MA | Jan. 10, 1967 |
| 91st | John W. McCormack | MA | Jan. 3, 1969 |
| 92d | Carl Albert | OK | Jan. 21, 1971 |
| 93d | Carl Albert | OK | Jan. 3, 1973 |
| 94th | Carl Albert | OK | Jan. 14, 1975 |
| 95th | Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. | MA | Jan. 4, 1977 |
| 96th | Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. | MA | Jan. 15, 1979 |
| 97th | Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. | MA | Jan. 5, 1981 |
| 98th | Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. | MA | Jan. 3, 1983 |
| 99th | Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. | MA | Jan. 3, 1985 |
| 100th | James C. Wright, Jr. | TX | Jan. 6, 1987 |

## Appendix B

### FLOOR LEADERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| Congress | Majority | Minority |
|---|---|---|
| 56th (1899-1901) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | James D. Richardson, D-TN |
| 57th (1901-1903) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | James D. Richardson, D-TN |
| 58th (1903-1905) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | John Sharp Williams, D-MS |
| 59th (1905-1907) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | John Sharp Williams, D-MS |
| 60th (1907-1908) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | John Sharp Williams, D-MS |
| (1908-1909) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | Champ Clark, D-MO |
| 61st (1909-1911) | Sereno E. Payne, R-NY | Champ Clark, D-MO |
| 62nd (1911-1913) | Oscar W. Underwood, D-AL | James R. Mann, R-IL |
| 63rd (1913-1915) | Oscar W. Underwood, D-AL | James R. Mann, R-IL |
| 64th (1915-1917) | Claude Kitchin, D-NC | James R. Mann, R-IL |
| 65th (1917-1919) | Claude Kitchin, D-NC | James R. Mann, R-IL |
| 66th (1919-1921) | Franklin W. Mondell, R-WY | Champ Clark, D-MO |
| 67th (1921-1923) | Franklin W. Mondell, R-WY | Claude Kitchin, D-NC |
| 68th (1923-1925) | Nicholas Longworth, R-OH | Finis J. Garrett, D-TN |
| 69th (1925-1927) | John Q. Tilson, R-CT | Finis J. Garrett, D-TN |
| 70th (1927-1929) | John Q. Tilson, R-CT | Finis J. Garrett, D-TN |
| 71st (1929-1931) | John Q. Tilson, R-CT | John N. Garner, D-TX |
| 72nd (1931-1933) | Henry T. Rainey, D-IL | Bertrand H. Snell, R-NY |
| 73rd (1933-1935) | Joseph W. Byrns, D-TN | Bertrand H. Snell, R-NY |
| 74th (1935-1937) | William B. Bankhead, D-AL | Bertrand H. Snell, R-NY |
| 75th (1937-1939) | Sam Rayburn, D-TX | Bertrand H. Snell, R-NY |
| 76th (1939-1940) | Sam Rayburn, D-TX | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| (1940-1941) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 77th (1941-1942) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 78th (1943-1945) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 79th (1945-1947) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 80th (1947-1949) | Charles A. Halleck, R-IN | Sam Rayburn, D-TX |
| 81st (1949-1951) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 82nd (1951-1953) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 83rd (1953-1955) | Charles A. Halleck, R-IN | Sam Rayburn, D-TX |
| 84th (1955-1957) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 85th (1957-1959) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Joseph W. Martin, Jr., R-MA |
| 86th (1959-1961) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Charles A. Halleck, R-IN |
| 87th (1961-1962) | John W. McCormack, D-MA | Charles A. Halleck, R-IN |
| (1962-1963) | Carl Albert, D-OK | Charles A. Halleck, R-IN |
| 88th (1963-1965) | Carl Albert, D-OK | Charles A. Halleck, R-IN |
| 89th (1965-1967) | Carl Albert, D-OK | Gerald R. Ford, R-MI |
| 90th (1967-1969) | Carl Albert, D-OK | Gerald R. Ford, R-MI |
| 91st (1969-1971) | Carl Albert, D-OK | Gerald R. Ford, R-MI |
| 92nd (1971-1973) | Hale Boggs, D-LA | Gerald R. Ford, R-MI |
| 93rd (1973) | Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. D-MA | Gerald R. Ford, R-MI |
| 93d (1974-1975) | Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. D-MA | John J. Rhodes, R-AZ |
| 94th (1975-1977) | Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. D-MA | John J. Rhodes, R-AZ |
| 95th (1977-1979) | James C. Wright, Jr., D-TX | John J. Rhodes, R-AZ |
| 96th (1979-1981) | James C. Wright, Jr., D-TX | John J. Rhodes, R-AZ |
| 97th (1981-1983) | James C. Wright, Jr., D-TX | Robert H. Michel, R-IL |
| 98th (1983-1984) | James C. Wright, Jr., D-TX | Robert H. Michel, R-IL |
| 99th (1985-1986) | James C. Wright, Jr., D-TX | Robert H. Michel, R-IL |
| 100th (1987-1988) | Thomas S. Foley, D-WA | Robert H. Michel, R-IL |

## Appendix C

### CLERKS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| Congress | Name | State |
|---|---|---|
| 1st-4th (1789-97) | John Beckley | Virginia |
| 5th (1797-99) | Jonathan W. Condy | Pennsylvania |
| 6th (1799-1801) | John H. Oswald | Pennsylvania |
| 7th-9th (1801-07) | John Beckley | Virginia |
| 10th-13th (1807-15) | Patrick Magruder | Maryland |
| 13th-17th (1815-22) | Thomas Dougherty | Kentucky |
| 17th-22d (1822-33) | Matthew St. Clair Clarke | Pennsylvania |
| 23d-25th (1833-38) | Walter S. Franklin | Pennsylvania |
| 25th-26th (1837-41) | Hugh A. Garland | Virginia |
| 27th (1841-43) | Matthew St. Clair Clarke | Pennsylvania |
| 28th (1843-45) | Caleb J. McNulty | Ohio |
| 28th-29th (1845-47) | Benjamin B. French | New Hampshire |
| 30th-31st (1847-50) | Thomas J. Campbell | Tennessee |
| 31st (1850-51) | Richard M. Young | Illinois |
| 32nd-34th (1851-56) | John W. Forney | Pennsylvania |
| 34th (1856-57) | William Cullom | Tennessee |
| 35th-36th (1857-60) | James C. Allen | Illinois |
| 36th (1860-61) | John W. Forney | Pennsylvania |
| 37th (1861-63) | Emerson Etheridge | Tennessee |
| 38th-43d (1863-75) | Edward McPherson | Pennsylvania |
| 44th-46th (1875-81) | George M. Adams | Kentucky |
| 47th (1881-83) | Edward McPherson | Pennsylvania |
| 48th-50th (1883-89) | John B. Clark, Jr. | Missouri |
| 51st (1889-91) | Edward McPherson | Pennsylvania |
| 52d-53d (1891-95) | James Kerr | Pennsylvania |
| 54th-61st (1895-1911) | Alexander McDowell | Pennsylvania |
| 62d-65th (1911-19) | South Trimble | Kentucky |
| 66th-71st (1919-31) | William Tyler Page | Maryland |
| 72d-79th (1931-47) | South Trimble | Kentucky |
| 80th (1947-49) | John Andrews | Masssachusetts |
| 81st-82d (1949-53) | Ralph R. Roberts | Indiana |
| 83rd (1953-55) | Lyle O. Snader | Illinois |
| 84th-89th (1955-67) | Ralph R. Roberts | Indiana |
| 90th-94th (1967-77) | W. Pat Jennings | Virginia |
| 94th-97th (1977-83) | Edmund L. Henshaw, Jr. | Virginia |
| 98th-99th (1983-86) | Benjamin J. Guthrie | Maryland |
| 100th- (1987- ) | Donnald K. Anderson | California |

## Appendix D

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

The books listed below have been selected to provide historical and procedural background that may be helpful to researchers using the records of Congress. They include general histories of Congress and of the House of Representatives, histories of the growth of the committee system, and discussions of the development of the procedures, rules, and precedents that govern the House or the Congress.

Some researchers may wish to consult a more complete bibliography of the literature on congressional studies. The first two entries below provide comprehensive and up-to-date surveys of legislative research and literature.

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# Appendix E

## GLOSSARY OF LEGISLATIVE AND ARCHIVAL TERMS

The following glossary of legislative and archival terms is selective, covering terms used in the text of this volume to describe the records of the House of Representatives, the offices and types of committees that created and/or maintained them, and the legislative processes that resulted in the creation of the records. It does not include most of the technical procedural terms used by Congress. For definitions of these terms, see *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to Congress. Third Edition*. (Washington: Congressional Quarterly Inc., 1982).

**Accompanying papers**: Petitions, affidavits, letters, and other papers that support or oppose claims for damages, pensions, or other forms of relief for which a private bill has been introduced, or papers relating to public bills. Accompanying papers appeared as a separate House series from the 39th through the 57th Congress (1865-1903). Before 1865 these records were filed with **committee papers**. The series known as "papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions" begins in the 58th Congress (1903-5) and includes published and unpublished records relating to specific bills and resolutions.

**Adjournment sine die**: Adjournment without definitely fixing a day for reconvening; literally "adjournment without a day." Usually used to denote the final adjournment of a session of Congress.

**Administrative records**: See **Housekeeping records.**

**Act**: (1) As used by Congress, a bill that has been passed by one House and engrossed. (2) As commonly used, a bill that has been passed by both Houses of Congress, enrolled, and either signed by the President or passed over his veto.

See also **Bill, Private law, Public law** and **Veto.**

**Amendment**: (1) A change made in proposed legislation after it has been formally introduced. An amendment may be proposed by the committee to which the bill was referred, or it may be proposed by a Member from the floor of either House when it is brought up for consideration. All amendments must be agreed to by a majority of the Members voting in the House where the amendment is proposed. (2) A change in the Constitution. Such an amendment is usually proposed in the form of a **joint resolution** of Congress, which may originate in either House. If passed, it does not go to the President for his approval but is submitted directly to the States for ratification.

**Architect of the Capitol**: The official who acts as the agent of Congress and is responsible for the maintenance of the Capitol and its grounds, House and Senate office buildings, Capitol Power Plant, Senate garage, R. A. Taft Memorial, buildings and grounds of the Supreme Court and Library of Congress, and operation of the Botanic Gardens and the Senate and House restaurants. The architect is responsible for the acquisition of property and the planning and construction of congressional buildings. He or she assists in deciding which works of art, historical objects, and exhibits are to be accepted for display in the Capitol and the House and Senate office buildings. The flag office that flies American flags over the Capitol is under the Architect's direction.

**Archives**: (1) The noncurrent records of an organization preserved because of their enduring value; also referred to, in this sense, as archival materials or holdings. See also **Permanent records**. (2) The agency responsible for preserving this material. (3) The building where such materials are located.

**Arrangement**: (1) The order in which documents are filed. (2) A logical plan for organizing records, such as chronologically, numerically, or alphabetically by name or subject. (3) The process of packing, labeling, and shelving of records and manuscripts intended to achieve physical or administrative control and basic identification of the holdings. The term *unarranged* refers to materials that have no apparent systematic order applied to them.

**Bill**: A written presentation to a legislative body proposing certain legislation for enactment into law. Bills may originate in either House, except as noted below, and must be passed by both Houses and approved by the President before they become law or, if disapproved by the President, must be passed over his veto by a two-thirds vote of each House. If a bill is passed within the 10-day period preceding the adjournment of Congress, the President may withhold approval and the bill will die (pocket veto). Bills for raising revenue, according to the Constitution, must originate in the House of Representatives, and bills for appropriating money customarily originate in the House. A bill is referred to in the following manner: H.R. 120, 70th Cong., 1st sess.

**Original bill**: A bill in the form in which it was introduced, handwritten or typewritten or a printed copy of a like bill that had been introduced in an earlier Congress. A bill, after introduction, is assigned a number and is printed.

**Bill file**: A type of case file containing materials relating to a particular bill. It may include some or all of the following: copies of bills, reports, committee prints, and printed hearings and transcripts of executive session hearings. Before the establishment of a systematic collection of bill files in 1903, material on certain bills and resolutions for the 39th through 57th Congresses is found in the **accompanying papers** series. Another and equivalent term is "papers accompanying specific bills and resolutions." See also **case file.**

**Reported copy of a bill**: The copy of a bill that has been discharged by a committee for consideration on the floor of the House. Such a bill is usually placed on one of the House calendars but may be brought up for immediate consideration without being placed on a calendar.

**Engrossed bill**: The final printed copy of a bill as it passed the House of origin and is sent to the other House for further action, or having passed the other House also, is sent back to the House of origin for enrollment. The engrossed copy of a bill that has passed both Houses together with its engrossed amendments is the official working copy from which an enrolled bill is prepared.

**Enrolled bill**: The final copy of an engrossed bill that has passed both Houses, embodying all amendments. Such a bill is printed on paper (formerly copied by a clerk in a fair, round hand on parchment) and is signed first by the Speaker of the House and second by the President of the Senate. On the back is an attestation by the Clerk of the House or the Secretary of the Senate, as the case may be, indicating the House of origin. The enrolled bill is presented to the President for his approval or disapproval. Some enrolled bills that were vetoed are among the records of the House of Representatives or Senate. Approved bills are in the General Records of the U.S. Government in the National Archives, those approved before May 24, 1950, having been received from the Secretary of State. Those after that date were received from the Office of the Federal Register. See also **Veto.**

**Calendar**: A record of the order in which bills are to be taken up for consideration.

**Committee calendar**: A chronological listing that is used by a committee to record bills and resolutions referred to the committee and to indicate the status of matters the committee is considering. Committees sometimes include additional information in their published calendar. See also **docket.**

**Consent calendar**: A calendar that is used by Members to speed consideration of measures that are considered non-controversial. Bills are called up for consideration regularly twice a month.

**Discharge calendar**: The calendar to which motions to discharge are referred when the discharge motion has the required 218 Members' signatures. A motion to discharge a committee is an action to relieve a committee from jurisdiction over a measure before it. This is attempted more often in the House than in the Senate, and is rarely successful. Any Member may file a discharge motion 30 days after a bill is referred to committee. Such a motion requires 218 signatures in the House and is delayed seven days after the signatures have been obtained. On the second and fourth Mondays of each month a signing Member may be recognized to move that the committee be discharged. This seldom-used calendar forces debate on discharge motions on the House floor because a bill or resolution has been bottled up in committee for more than 30 days, and a majority of the House wants to consider that measure. See also **Quorum.**

**House Calendar**: A calendar or scheduling for action by the House on which are placed all public bills or joint resolutions not raising revenue or directly or indirectly appropriating money or property.

**Private Calendar**: A calendar of the Committee of the Whole House on which all bills or joint resolutions of a private character are placed. See also **Private law.**

**Union Calendar**: A calendar of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, on which are placed revenue bills, general appropriation bills, and bills of a public character directly or indirectly appropriating money or property.

**Case file**: A file unit containing material relating to a specific transaction, event, person, project, or subject. A legislative case file (also known as a **bill file**) may cover one or many subjects that relate to a particular piece of legislation. A project case file may also cover many subjects pertaining to one main activity. The contents of investigative case files vary greatly depending on the practice of individual committees. See also **Program records.**

**Chronological file**: See **Reading file.**

**Clerk of the House**: The chief administrative officer of the House. The Clerk acts as presiding officer pending the election of the Speaker; makes up the roll of House Members from certificates of election; makes up and publishes a list of reports that are, by law, to be submitted to Congress; prepares and prints the *Journal*; certifies the passage of bills and resolutions; attests and seals warrants and subpoenas; keeps contingent and stationery accounts; acts as custodian of property; pays the salaries of all House personnel except those of Members and Delegates; is custodian of all noncurrent records; and supervises the House Library. See also **Delegate.**

**Committee**: A body of Members, usually limited in number, appointed under House rules or by resolution, to consider some matter of business (e.g., investigations or legislation) and to report thereon to the House for further action. Only a full committee can report legislation for action by the House or Senate.

**Committee of the Whole House**: A committee that is formed by the House resolving itself into a committee. The Committee of the Whole House can act with a quorum of only 100 Members instead of the 218 required for action by the House itself. It does not originate resolutions or bills but receives those devised by standing or select committees and referred to it. Any legislation favorably acted on by the Committee of the Whole House must be reported to the House for further action. Such measures, however, must first have passed through the regular legislative or appropriation committees and be placed on the appropriate **calendar**. When the Committee of the Whole House reports, the House usually acts at once on the report without referring the matter again to select or other committees.

**Conference committee**: A committee appointed by the Speaker and the President of the Senate to resolve disagreements on a bill passed in different versions in each House. It is composed usually of the ranking Members of the committees of each House that originally considered the legislation.

**Select or special committee**: A committee appointed to perform a special function that is beyond the authority or capacity of a standing committee. A select committee is usually created by a simple resolution, which outlines its duties and powers, and its Members are appointed under the rules of their respective Houses. A select committee expires on completion of its assigned duties. Most special committees are investigative in nature rather than legislative.

**Joint committee**: A committee consisting of Members of both Houses and having jurisdiction over matters of joint interest. Most joint committees are standing committees, but special joint committees are created at times.

**Standing committee**: A committee permanently authorized by House and Senate rules. The **Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946** greatly reduced the number of committees. The powers and duties of each committee are set forth in the rules of the House and Senate, and the membership is elected on motion or resolution from the floor at the beginning of each Congress.

**Subcommittee**: A subdivision of a standing committee that considers specified matters and reports back to the full committee.

**Committee hearings**: See **Hearings.**

**Committee jurisdiction**: Subjects each committee is expected to cover as specified in rules published in House and Senate manuals. Jurisdictions can never be drawn to cover all contingencies and intercommittee cooperation is essential.

**Committee meeting minutes**: See **Minute book.**

**Committee papers**: A series of documents created or received by a committee in the course of considering proposed legislation or in conducting investigations that may assist in formulating legislation. The series may consist of correspondence, hearings, reports, minutes of meetings, dockets, calendars, and miscellaneous work papers. The content of this series varies considerably through time. Papers that relate to private bills and some papers that relate to public bills were filed as accompanying papers from the 39th Congress through the 57th Congress.

**Committee print**: A general term used for a variety of publications issued by congressional committees on subjects related to their legislative or research activities. These publications are generally viewed as internal background information publications, and some are not announced for public distribution. Committee prints are of two kinds: (1) reports related to legislative activities such as investigative and oversight hearings, and (2) reports of results of research activities. Some committees have their own research staffs; others use outside consultants, and most use the staff of the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress to produce situation studies, statistical or historical information reports, or legislative analyses.

**Concurrent resolution**: See **Resolution.**

**Conference**: A meeting of representatives of the two Houses for the purpose of reaching agreement on conflicting versions of a bill or joint resolution or parts thereof passed in each House in order to have an agreed-upon version to send to the President. The conference version of the bill approved by a majority of the members appointed by each chamber to this ad hoc committee must be passed by both Houses before being sent to the President. See Committee, thereunder **Conference committee**; see also **Report**, thereunder Conference report.

**Congress**: (1) The national legislature as a whole, including both the House and the Senate. (2) The united body of senators and representatives for any term of two years for which the whole body is chosen. A Congress lasts for a period of two years and usually has two sessions, but it may consist of three or more sessions. Before the adoption of the 20th amendment to the Constitution in 1933, a session of Congress began on the first Monday in December of each year, each odd-numbered year marking the beginning of a new Congress. Now a regular session of Congress begins on January 3 of each year and a new Congress begins January 3 of every odd-numbered year.

**Congressional Record**: The daily, printed account of the proceedings in both the House and Senate Chambers, recording floor debates, statements, and floor actions. Highlights of legislative and committee action are embodied in a "Daily Digest" section of the **Record**, and Members are entitled to have their extraneous remarks printed in an appendix known as "Extension of Remarks." Members may edit and revise remarks made on the floor during debate, and quotations from debate reported by the press are not always found in the **Record**. The **Congressional Record** is printed for the convenience of the Members. The only official record kept of the proceedings of the Senate or House is the **Journal** of each body.

**Congressional Serial Set**: A special edition of publications of the U.S. House and Senate and such other publications as Congress orders to be printed in it, also known as the Congressional Edition, the Congressional Set, and the United States Serial Set. The reports and documents of the House or Senate that comprise the set are assigned numbers within each Congress and category. The volumes of the set are numbered serially beginning in 1817 and continuing in an unbroken sequence to the present. The Serial Set is available at designated **depository libraries** throughout the United States. Each publication is entered and identified in the **Monthly Catalog**. Since 1969, items in the *Congressional Serial Set* are cited in the following manner: H. Doc. 91-1, etc. See also **Document** and **Report.**

**Contingent fund**: A sum appropriated for lawful but miscellaneous expenses of each House. The Clerk of the House maintains that body's account which includes purchase of stationery, newspapers, and other incidental expenses.

**Delegate**: A nonvoting representative of one of the territories or of a district organized by law who receives the compensation, allowances, and benefits of a Member of the House and is entitled to the privileges and immunities of Members. Delegates have a right to vote in committee and otherwise participate in House floor activities. The citizens of Puerto Rico are represented by a Resident Commissioner who has the same rights as a Delegate. At the organization of the House during the opening of the first session, Delegates and the Resident Commissioner are sworn but the Clerk of the House does not put them on the roll for voting.

**Depository libraries**: Selected libraries that participate in the congressionally established Depository Library Program. The program's plan makes available Government publications to each State's citizens. The object is to make selected Government publications widely available for the free use of the general public. The number of libraries located in each State corresponds to the number of congressional districts. Regional depository libraries (two per state) permanently keep depository material received from the Superintendent of Public Documents.

**Discharge a committee**: See **Calendar**, thereunder **Discharge calendar.**

**Docket**: A book in which all matters referred to a committee for its consideration are registered numerically, together with the actions taken on them. See also **Calendar**, thereunder **Committee calendar.**

**Document**: (1) A physical entity of any substance on which is recorded all or part of a work or multiple works. Documents include books and booklike materials, printed sheets, graphics, manuscripts, audiorecordings, videorecordings, motion pictures, and machine-readable data files. (2) A general term used to designate official materials issued in the name of the House. (3) Beginning with the 15th Congress, the copy of material that was printed by order of the House or Senate. Printed documents from the 30th through the 53d Congress were identified as either miscellaneous or executive documents, which see below. This distinction has disappeared and House documents are referred to in the following manner: H. Doc. 25, 54th Cong., 1st sess.

> **Executive document**: A document that originated with an agency in the executive branch of the Government and was printed by order of the House or Senate. House executive documents were numbered in each Congress and were designated in the following manner: H. Ex. Doc. 49, 30th Cong., 1st sess. In 1895 the series was consolidated with the Miscellaneous Document series, and the resulting series became known as House Documents.
>
> **Miscellaneous documents**: Petitions, memorials, communications from non-governmental sources, special reports, reports from independent agencies, and other miscellaneous items that were ordered printed by the House. These were numbered in each Congress in the following manner: H. Misc. Doc. 23, 53d Cong., 1st sess. In 1895 this series was consolidated with the Executive Document series, and the resulting series became known simply as House Documents.

See also **Executive communications** and **Presidential messages.**

**Electoral college**: See **Electors.**

**Electoral vote**: (1) The vote cast by an elector for the President of the United States. (2) The aggregation of the votes of all electors in a Presidential election.

**Electors**: Those chosen by vote of the people to the electoral college, the function of which is to elect the President of the United States. Each state has as many electors as it has Members of the House of Representatives plus its two Members of the Senate.

**Endorsement**: The writing on the outside or cover of a bill, report, petition or memorial, or other document, giving a brief description of the document, by whom submitted or presented, date of referral, and either the name of the committee to which it was referred or other disposition that might have been made.

**Executive communications**: Texts of various communications to the Congress which are recorded as House **Documents**. They include **Presidential messages** proposing new legislation for consideration by the Congress or vetoing legislation passed by the Congress. Also included for a signed bill is the statement by the President that describes the benefits to be derived from the new law and acknowledges the legislators and other interested parties who were closely associated with promoting the legislation. In addition, annual and special reports to Congress from various executive agencies are published as House and, occasionally, Senate Documents. Often these agency reports are transmitted by Presidential message. However, they may come directly from the reporting agency.

**Executive department**: One of the major functional subdivisions of the executive branch of the Government, the head of which is a member of the President's Cabinet. See also **Independent agency.**

**Executive document**: See **Document.**

**Executive hearing**: See **Hearings.**

**Federal Register**: (1) The daily publication, *Federal Register*. (2) The office in the National Archives and Records Administration that compiles and publishes the daily *Federal Register* of rules, regulations, and notices from government agencies; the *Code of Federal Regulations*; the *United States Government Manual; Compilation of Presidential Documents; Public Papers of the Presidents; United States Statutes at Large*; and **slip laws.**

**Filibuster**: A time-delaying tactic associated with the Senate and used by a minority in an effort to prevent a vote on a bill or amendment that probably would pass if voted on directly. The most common method is to take advantage of the Senate's rules permitting unlimited debate, but other forms of parliamentary maneuvering may be used. The stricter rules used by the House make filibusters more difficult, but delaying tactics are employed occasionally through various procedural devices allowed by House rules.

**Finding aids**: The descriptive matter, published and unpublished, created by an originating office, an archival agency, or a manuscript repository, to establish physical or administrative and intellectual control over records and other holdings.

**Fiscal year**: The 12-month period used in accounting for the receipt and expenditure of funds from the U.S. Treasury. The Government operated on a calendar fiscal year basis from 1789 through 1842. A separate report was issued for the first six months of 1843. Thereafter, the fiscal year was defined as July 1 to the following June 30 for the years from 1843 through 1975. The 1976 fiscal year began July 1, 1975, but did not end until September 30, 1976. The 1977 fiscal year and all succeeding fiscal years began on October 1 and continued through the following September 30.

**Government Printing Office**: The agency in the legislative branch that prints and binds, either in-house or on a commercial contract, all congressional publications as well as publications of departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Responsibilities include furnishing inks, paper, and printing supplies to governmental agencies on request; distributing and selling Government publications; cataloging and maintaining a library collection of its publications; and operating an exchange account for publications allotted to Members. See also ***Congressional Record, Monthly Catalog, United States Code,*** and ***Congressional Serial Set.***

**Hearing**: (1) A meeting of a House committee at which interested parties give testimony during the consideration of proposed legislation or during an investigation. (2) The recorded testimony presented at such a hearing. At hearings on legislation, witnesses usually include experts in the matter under consideration, governmental officials, and representatives of persons affected by the bill or bills under study. Hearings related to special investigations bring forth a variety of witnesses. Committees sometimes use their subpoena power to summon reluctant witnesses.

> **Executive hearing**: (1) Closed hearings that bar the public and the press. (2) Recorded testimony presented at such a hearing and rarely printed. If not a separate series, the recorded testimony is typically found among **committee papers.**
>
> **Public hearing**: (1) A hearing that is open to the public and press. (2) The recorded testimony presented at such a hearing usually printed and distributed by the committee conducting the hearing.

**House document**: See **Document.**

**Housekeeping records**: Records of a committee or an officer of Congress that relate to the administrative budget of Congress, including accounting, personnel, supply, and similar administrative or facilitative operations normally common to most organizations, as distinguished from program or substantive records that relate to the organization's primary functions. See **Program records.**

**Impeachment**: The bringing of charges against an official of the Government that question his or her right or qualifications to hold office. Maladministration or misconduct while in office is usually the basis of the charges. Impeachment charges are made by the House of Representatives. The trial of an impeached officer is conducted before the Senate. The Chief Justice of the United States presides when the President of the United States is being tried.

**Independent agency**: An agency of the executive branch of the government that operates independently of any **executive department**. The head of an independent agency is not a member of the President's Cabinet.

**Intrinsic value**: In manuscript appraisal, the worth, in monetary terms, of a document, dependent upon some unique factor, such as its age, the circumstances regarding its creation, a signature, or an attached seal. In archival terms, it is those permanently valuable records that have qualities and characteristics that make the records in their original form the only archivally acceptable form for preservation.

**Inventory**: (1) A basic archival **finding aid** usually describing the records of a Federal agency or part of an agency. It generally includes a brief history of the organization and functions of the agency whose records are being described; a description of each record series (giving as a minimum such data as title, dates, quantity, and arrangement, and sometimes relationships to other series and description of significant subject content); and, if appropriate, appendices that provide such supplementary information as a filing scheme, a glossary of abbreviations and special terms, lists of folder headings on special subjects, or indexes. (2) In records management, a survey of records prior to development of records disposition schedules.

**Investigative case files**: See **Case files.**

**Joint resolution**: See **Resolution.**

**Journal**: The official record (required by the Constitution in Article 1, section 5) of the proceedings on the floor of the House, which is read each day and approved. The *Journal* records the actions taken, but, unlike the ***Congressional Record***, it does not include the substantially verbatim report of speeches, debates, etc. The *Journal* is printed, but the manuscript may be available in two forms, rough and finished. The rough journal consists of the first draft of the proceedings that is drafted from **minute books**. The finished journal is generally prepared from the rough journal after it has been revised and corrected. The finished journal is used as copy for the printer. The manuscript journal, after being edited and proofread by the Public Printer, is bound and returned to the Clerk of the House.

**Jurisdiction**: The sphere or limits of authority of a House standing committee. A House rule defines each committee's jurisdiction. The Speaker must refer public bills and Members' private bills to the appropriate committee, but the House itself may refer a bill to any committee without regard to jurisdiction. A committee may not report a bill if the subject matter has not been referred to the committee by the House establishing jurisdiction by precedent. See also **Committee** and **Refer.**

**Law**: See **Private law** and **Public law.**

**Lay on the table**: See **Table.**

**Legislative case file**: See **Case file.**

**Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946**: An act (60 Stat. 812), under which the 44 House committees of the 79th Congress were consolidated into 19, effective January 2, 1947. The jurisdiction of each new committee was specified, and committees were required to exercise continuous oversight over the agencies under their jurisdiction. All official committee records were to be kept separate from the congressional office records of the Member serving as chairman.

**Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970**: The act (84 Stat. 1140) that removed much of the secrecy surrounding Members' actions and positions on issues and legislation. All roll-call votes taken in committees were required to be made public. House Members' positions on floor amendments were individually recorded and printed in the ***Congressional Record.***

**Majority Leader**: The officer who is elected by his party colleagues as the majority party's legislative strategist and second ranking leader after the Speaker.

**Majority Whip**: In effect, the assistant majority leader, in either House. His job is to help marshal majority forces in support of party strategy and legislation.

**Manual**: The official handbook in each House prescribing in detail its organization, procedures, and operations. (See Chapter 1, para.1.90).

**Memorial**: See **Petition.**

**Minority Leader**: Floor leader for the minority party in each Chamber.

**Minority Whip**: The assistant leader for the minority party.

**Minute book**: (1) A record of the proceedings of either House that contains a brief outline of proceedings as they occur. The minute book is used to prepare the *Journal*. (2) A committee record in the form of notes or brief summary of the committee's proceedings.

**Miscellaneous document**: See **Document.**

***Monthly Catalog***: The **Monthly Catalog of United States Government Publications** which is issued by the

Superintendent of Documents, U.S. **Government Printing Office**. Subjects are derived from Library of Congress subject headings. The catalog consists of an entry for each new publication and seven indexes—author, title, subject, series/report number, contract number, stock number, and title keyword. The catalog was first issued in 1895.

**Motion**: A proposal made to a deliberative body for its approval or disapproval. A motion may be made orally. However, in the House, the Speaker may require a motion to be put in writing. The precedence of motions, and whether they are debatable, is set forth in the House and Senate manuals.

**Motion to discharge**: **See Committee.**

**Nonrecord**: Material not usually included within the definition of records, such as unofficial copies of documents kept only for convenience or reference, stocks of publications and processed documents, and library or museum material intended solely for reference or exhibition.

**Office of record**: An office designated as the official custodian of records for specified programs, activities, or transactions of the House or Senate. For example, the House Administration Committee maintains permanent records of the hiring of consultants by committees and the Senate Disbursing Office keeps official Senate personnel records.

**Order**: A direction to carry out an action that has already been agreed to by the House. Orders can be addressed to committees, or individual Members, or officials of the House. When the House commands, it is by an "order," but fact, principles, and the Members' own opinions and purposes are expressed in the form of **resolutions.**

**Overriding of a Veto**: Enacting a bill without the President's signature after the President has disapproved it and returned it to Congress with his objections. To override a veto the Constitution (Article 1, section 7) requires a two-thirds majority recorded vote in each chamber. The question put to each House is: "Shall the bill pass, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding?" See also **Veto.**

**Papers**: (1) A natural accumulation of personal and family materials, as distinct from **records**. (2) A general term used to designate more than one type of manuscript material. See also **Personal papers** (of a **Member**).

**Parliamentarian**: The officer who is responsible for advising presiding officers and Members on parliamentary procedures; for preparing and maintaining compilations of the precedents of the House; and for referral of bills, resolutions, and other communications to the appropriate committees at the direction of the Speaker.

**Permanent records**: Records of an office or committee of the legislative branch appraised by the National Archives as having enduring value because they document the organization and functions of the committee or office that created or received them and/or because they contain significant information on persons, things, problems, and conditions with which the committee or office dealt

**Personal papers** (of a **Member**): An accumulation of private documents of an individual, belonging to him or her and subject to his or her disposition.

**Petition**: A type of document, similar to a **memorial,** submitted to the Congress asking that some action be taken by the Government or taking a positive stand on an issue. Generally speaking, in the late 18th and 19th centuries a petition, unlike a **memorial,** included a prayer (e.g., petition of John Smith praying that his claim be granted). **Memorials** also express opposition to ("remonstrate against") some pending action. In modern usage, there is no apparent difference between a **memorial** and a petition, and petition has become the commonly accepted generic term. A similar document transmitted to Congress by a legislative body such as a State legislature takes the form of a **resolution** and is sometimes termed a memorial. See also **Refer.**

**Petition book**: A register in which the receipt of petitions and subsequent actions on them are recorded. It is kept in the office of the Clerk of the House. See also **Refer.**

**Pocket veto**: See **Veto.**

**Precedent**: A preceding instance or case that serves as an example for subsequent cases. The Speaker gives precedent its proper influence and is directed to prepare an updated compilation of House precedents every two years. Several publications of compiled precedents prepared by the House **Parliamentarian** have been issued and are known variously by the compiler's name, Hinds, Cannon, and Deschler. (See Chapter 1, para 1.91). Compiled while Thomas Jefferson was Vice President, *Jefferson's Manual* is published with each revised edition of Rules of the House.

**Preliminary inventory**: See **Inventory.**

**Preservation (archival)**: (1) Adequate protection, care, and maintenance of archives and manuscripts. (2) Specific measures, individual and collective, undertaken for the repair, maintenance, restoration, or protection of documents. (3) A basic responsibility of an archival repository.

**Presidential messages**: Communications to Congress delivered by the President in person or in writing as provided for under the Constitution (Article 2, section 3). Those in writing are usually communicated on the same day to both Houses. Only messages of great importance are delivered in person. See **Executive communications.**

**Private law**: An act granting a pension, authorizing payment of a claim, or affording another form of relief to a private individual or legal entity. See **Calendar**, thereunder **Private calendar.**

**Program records**: Records created or received and maintained by a committee in the conduct of the substantive functions (legislative and oversight) for which it is responsible. A program correspondence file may include correspondence on a number of subjects, as distinguished from a **case file** that contains correspondence about specific legislation or a specific investigation.

**Public hearings**: See **Hearings.**

**Public law**: A act that is of universal application, that is clothed with any public interest, or that applies to a class of persons as opposed to a private law that applies only to a specified individual or legal entity.

**Quorum**: The number of Members whose presence is necessary for the transaction of business. In the Senate and House, it is a majority of the membership. When there are no vacancies, this is 51 in the Senate and 218 in the House. A quorum is 100 in the **Committee of the Whole House**. If a point of order is made that a quorum is not present, the only business that is in order is a motion to adjourn or a motion to direct the Sergeant at Arms to request the attendance of absentees. See also **Calendar**, thereunder **Discharge calendar.**

**Reading file**: A folder containing copies of documents, frequently letters sent, arranged in chronological order, sometimes known as a chronological or "chron" file or a day file. A reading file may be circulated to other persons for reference; chronological files are usually retained by the author for his or her reference.

**Record group**: In Federal archives, a body of organizationally related records established on the basis of provenance with particular regard for the administrative history, the complexity, and the volume of the records and archives of the institution or organization involved. See also **Series.**

**Record series**: See **Series.**

**Records**: In Federal archives, all books, papers, maps, photographs, motion pictures, sound or video recordings, machine-readable materials, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received by agencies of the U.S. Government under Federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and preserved or deemed appropriate for preservation by that agency or its legitimate successor as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the Government or because of the informational value of the data in them.

**Refer**: To assign a bill, communication, or other document to a committee for its consideration. The House or Senate ***Journal*** indicates the committee to which any bill or document was referred. The Speaker or presiding officer of the Senate may refer measures to several committees because of the jurisdictional complexities of modern legislation. There are three types of multiple referral: joint referral of a bill concurrently to two or more committees; sequential referral of a bill successively to one committee, then a second, and so on; and split referral of various parts of a bill to different committees for consideration.

**Register**: A list of events, letters sent and received, actions taken, etc., usually in simple sequence, as by date or number, and often serving as a finding aid to the records, such as a register of letters sent or a register of visitors.

**Report**: (1) To bring back to the House or Senate, with recommendations, a bill or other matter that was referred to a committee or that originated in the committee. (2) A document presenting a committee's findings, or the findings of a conference committee or an executive agency that is required by law to submit them. Beginning with the 16th Congress (1819-21), committee reports were printed in a separate series. They are usually numbered and indicate the bills or other matters to which they refer; they are identified in the following manner: H. Rept. 240, 70th Cong., 2d sess. Reports from executive agencies or other sources frequently are printed as House Documents. See also **Document.**

**Committee report**: A document explaining a committee's position on legislation when a bill is discharged from a committee. When expressed, minority views will also be included in such a report.

**Conference committee report**: A two-part presentation that includes: (1) a bill, called the conference version, which has been approved by a majority of the managers appointed by each chamber to an ad hoc committee, the **conference committee**, and which reconciles the differences in form and provisions of bills passed on the same subject by the two Houses. The conference version of the bill sent to both Chambers for approval contains the language agreed to and recommended by the managers. Approval of the conference version will ensure passage of legislation in identical language by both Chambers as required to complete legislative action on a bill; and (2) a descriptive statement of the provisions of the conference version. A conference committee report is numbered and designated in the same way as a regular committee report. See **Committee**, thereunder **Conference committee.**

**Resolution**: A formal expression of position by one or both Houses not having the force of law, a means of providing procedural arrangements between the two Houses, or, if a joint resolution, an enactment having the authority of legislation. There are three types of resolutions:

**Simple resolution**: A measure that deals with matters entirely within the prerogatives of one House or the other. It does not contain legislation and does not require concurrence of the other House or Presidential approval. Its authority extends only to the House in which it originates. It is designated H. Res. if it originates in the House of Representatives and S. Res. if it originates in the Senate. Such a resolution is used to amend the rules or procedures of one chamber; to express the will or sentiments of the House originating it; to create select or special committees; to authorize the printing of special reports or additional copies of reports or hearings; to give advice on foreign policy or other executive business; to authorize funds to conduct investigations, either select or special, or to fund an investigative subcommittee; and to request information from administrative agencies.

**Concurrent resolution**: A measure that is used as a vehicle for expressing the sense of Congress on various foreign policy and domestic issues. It is similar to a simple resolution except that it indicates joint action and requires the concurrence of both Houses. It contains no legislation and its authority does not extend beyond Congress. Also, it is used, for example, to set the time for an **adjournment sine die**, to correct enrolled bills, to express the will of Congress, and to create special joint committees. It does not require Presidential approval. Concurrent resolutions are usually printed and are assigned numbers by the House of origin. They are referred to in the following manner: H. Con. Res. 25, 70th Cong., 1st sess.

**Joint resolution**: (1) A form of proposed legislation similar to a bill, which in former usage served a limited purpose or was temporary in its effect. In present usage, however, a joint resolution is almost identical to a bill. A joint resolution (except a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution) requires the signature of the President or passage over his veto before it becomes law. It is designated in the following manner: H. J. Res. 25, 70th Cong., 1st sess. There may also be original joint resolutions; reported, calendar, and desk copies of joint resolutions; engrossed joint resolutions, and enrolled joint resolutions. (2) The approved measure which is treated as an act and which, since 1941, has been numbered in the same series as acts that originated as bills. Joint resolutions are generally used in dealing with limited matters, such as a single appropriation for a special purpose.

**Roll call**: (1) The calling of the roll for the purpose of determining the presence of a quorum or for recording the yeas and nays on a specific measure. (2) The record of roll calls taken. Records of roll calls are numbered in sequence and are retained in the files. See also **Yeas and nays.**

**Rough**: Pertaining to a first draft from which a finished or "smooth" copy is transcribed or printed, as in the rough journal.

**Rule**: (1) A standing order governing the conduct of House or Senate business. The permanent rules of either Chamber deal with duties of officers, the order of business, admission to the floor, parliamentary procedures on handling amendments and voting, jurisdictions of committees, and other procedures. (2) In the House, a resolution reported by the Rules Committee to govern the handling of a particular bill on the floor. The committee may report a "rule," also called a "special order," in the form of a simple resolution. If the resolution is adopted by the House, the temporary rule becomes as valid as any standing rule and lapses only after action has been completed on the measure to which it pertains. A rule may set the time limit on general debate. It also may waive points of order against provisions, such as non-germane language of the bill in question or against certain amendments intended to be proposed to the bill from the floor. A rule may even forbid all amendments or all amendments except those proposed by the legislative committee that handled the bill. In this instance, the rule is known as a "closed" or "gag" rule as opposed to an "open" rule, which puts no limitation on floor amendments, thus leaving the bill completely open to alteration by the adoption of germane amendments.

**Secret journal**: A journal of proceedings that were ordered to be kept secret.

**Sergeant at Arms**: A House officer whose duties include enforcing attendance at sessions of the House; enforcing House Rules and maintaining decorum; keeping the Mace, the symbol of legislative power and authority; operating the House bank for Members; maintaining a check cashing facility for House employees; providing for the security of the building, visitors, and all foreign delegations visiting the House; and serving on a rotational basis as chairman of the Capitol Police Board and Capitol Guide Board.

**Series**: In archives, file units or documents arranged in accordance with a filing system or maintained as a unit because they relate to a particular subject or function, result from the same activity, or have a particular form.

**Session**: A meeting of the Congress that continues from day to day until **adjournment sine die**. Two or more sessions may occur within the 2-year period covered by a Congress.

**Slip law**: The first official publication of a bill that has been enacted and signed into law. Each is published separately in unbound single-sheet or pamphlet form.

**Speaker**: The permanent presiding officer of the House, selected by the caucus of the majority party and formally elected by the whole House. The Speaker can vote on all matters, but normally does not do so except in case of a tie vote.

**Speaker pro tempore**: Member appointed by the Speaker to perform the duties of the chair in the Speaker's absence. Such appointments do not extend beyond three legislative days. In case of illness, the Speaker may, with the approval of the House, appoint a Speaker pro tempore for a period of 10 days. Under certain circumstances, the House may elect a Speaker pro tempore for the period of the Speaker's absence.

**Special committee**: A select committee. See **Committee**, thereunder **Select committee.**

**Special session**: A session of Congress held after it has adjourned sine die, completing its regular session. Special sessions are convened by the President of the United States under his constitutional powers.

**Statute**: A law enacted by a legislative body. The laws enacted by Congress are published in a series of volumes entitled ***Statutes at Large.***

***Statutes at Large***: A chronological arrangement of the laws enacted in each session of Congress. Though indexed, the laws are not arranged by subject, nor is there an indication of how they affect previously enacted laws. See also ***United States Code.***

**Transcription**: A copy or verbatim written record of a committee hearing.

**Table**: To dispose of a matter finally and adversely without debate. A motion to "lay on the table" is not debatable in either House. In the Senate different language is sometimes used, and a motion may be worded to let a bill "lie on the table," perhaps for subsequent "picking up." This motion is more flexible, merely keeping the bill pending for later action, if desired. Tabling motions on amendments are effective debate-ending devices in the Senate.

***United States Code***: An official Government publication that consolidates and codifies the general and permanent laws of the United States arranged by subject under 50 titles, the first six dealing with general or political subjects, and the other 44 alphabetically arranged from "agriculture" to "war and national defense." The code is revised every 6 years, and a supplement is published after each session of Congress by the Office of the Law Revision Counsel of the House of Representatives. This office is conducting a project to codify all laws of the United States and eventually at the project's completion it will be unnecessary for researchers to refer to ***Statutes at Large*** for any current law text.

**United States Serial Set**: See ***Congressional Serial Set.***

**Veto**: (1) Presidential disapproval of a bill by returning it without signing it within 10 days (Sunday excepted) after it is presented to the President. Such a bill is usually accompanied by a veto message stating the President's reasons for disapproval. It is returned to the House of origin and becomes a question of high privilege in the relative priority of motions and actions to be made in the chamber. (2) Presidential disapproval of a bill by failing to sign it (pocket veto) less than 10 days before the adjournment of Congress. Joint resolutions may be vetoed in the same ways. See **Bill.**

**Yeas and nays**: The record of the vote on a matter by the Members of the House. See also **Roll call.**

# Appendix F

## DATES OF THE SESSIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, 1789-1988

| Congress | Beginning Date | Ending Date |
|---|---|---|
| 1st | Mar. 4, 1789 | Mar. 3, 1791 |
| 2d | Oct. 24, 1791 | Mar. 2, 1793 |
| 3d | Dec. 2, 1793 | Mar. 3, 1795 |
| 4th | Dec. 7, 1795 | Mar. 3, 1797 |
| 5th | May 15, 1797 | Mar. 3, 1799 |
| 6th | Dec. 2, 1799 | Mar. 3, 1801 |
| 7th | Dec. 7, 1801 | Mar. 3, 1803 |
| 8th | Oct. 17, 1803 | Mar. 3, 1805 |
| 9th | Dec. 2, 1805 | Mar. 3, 1807 |
| 10th | Oct. 26, 1807 | Mar. 3, 1809 |
| 11th | May 22, 1809 | Mar. 3, 1811 |
| 12th | Nov. 4, 1811 | Mar. 3, 1813 |
| 13th | May 24, 1813 | Mar. 3, 1815 |
| 14th | Dec. 4, 1815 | Mar. 3, 1817 |
| 15th | Dec. 1, 1817 | Mar. 3, 1819 |
| 16th | Dec. 6, 1819 | Mar. 3, 1821 |
| 17th | Dec. 3, 1821 | Mar. 3, 1823 |
| 18th | Dec. 1, 1823 | Mar. 3, 1825 |
| 19th | Dec. 5, 1825 | Mar. 3, 1827 |
| 20th | Dec. 3, 1827 | Mar. 3, 1829 |
| 21st | Dec. 7, 1829 | Mar. 3, 1831 |
| 22d | Dec. 5, 1831 | Mar. 2, 1833 |
| 23d | Dec. 2, 1833 | Mar. 3, 1835 |
| 24th | Dec. 7, 1835 | Mar. 3, 1837 |
| 25th | Sept. 4, 1837 | Mar. 3, 1839 |
| 26th | Dec. 2, 1839 | Mar. 3, 1841 |
| 27th | May 31, 1841 | Mar. 3, 1843 |
| 28th | Dec. 4, 1843 | Mar. 3, 1845 |
| 29th | Dec. 1, 1845 | Mar. 3, 1847 |
| 30th | Dec. 6, 1847 | Mar. 3, 1849 |
| 31th | Dec. 3, 1849 | Mar. 3, 1851 |
| 32d | Dec. 1, 1851 | Mar. 3, 1853 |
| 33d | Dec. 5, 1853 | Mar. 3, 1855 |
| 34th | Dec. 3, 1855 | Mar. 3, 1857 |
| 35th | Dec. 7, 1857 | Mar. 3, 1859 |
| 36th | Dec. 5, 1859 | Mar. 3, 1861 |
| 37th | July 4, 1861 | Mar. 3, 1863 |
| 38th | Dec. 7, 1863 | Mar. 3, 1865 |
| 39th | Dec. 4, 1865 | Mar. 3, 1867 |
| 40th | Mar. 4, 1867 | Mar. 3, 1869 |
| 41st | Mar. 4, 1869 | Mar. 3, 1871 |
| 42d | Mar. 4, 1871 | Mar. 3, 1873 |
| 43d | Dec. 1, 1873 | Mar. 3, 1875 |
| 44th | Dec. 6, 1875 | Mar. 3, 1877 |
| 45th | Oct. 15, 1877 | Mar. 3, 1879 |
| 46th | Mar. 18, 1879 | Mar. 3, 1881 |
| 47th | Dec. 5, 1881 | Mar. 3, 1883 |
| 48th | Dec. 3, 1883 | Mar. 3, 1885 |
| 49th | Dec. 7, 1885 | Mar. 3, 1887 |
| 50th | Dec. 5, 1887 | Mar. 3, 1889 |
| 51st | Dec. 2, 1889 | Mar. 3, 1891 |
| 52d | Dec. 7, 1891 | Mar. 3, 1893 |
| 53d | Aug. 7, 1893 | Mar. 3, 1895 |

## Appendix F—Continued

### DATES OF THE SESSIONS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS, 1789-1988

| Congress | Beginning Date | Ending Date |
|---|---|---|
| 54th | Dec. 2, 1895 | Mar. 3, 1897 |
| 55th | Mar. 15, 1897 | Mar. 3, 1899 |
| 56th | Dec. 4, 1899 | Mar. 3, 1901 |
| 57th | Dec. 2, 1901 | Mar. 3, 1903 |
| 58th | Nov. 9, 1903 | Mar. 3, 1905 |
| 59th | Dec. 4, 1905 | Mar. 3, 1907 |
| 60th | Dec. 2, 1907 | Mar. 3, 1909 |
| 61st | Mar. 15, 1909 | Mar. 3, 1911 |
| 62d | Apr. 4, 1911 | Mar. 3, 1913 |
| 63d | Apr. 7, 1913 | Mar. 3, 1915 |
| 64th | Dec. 6, 1915 | Mar. 3, 1917 |
| 65th | Apr. 2, 1917 | Mar. 3, 1919 |
| 66th | May 19, 1919 | Mar. 3, 1921 |
| 67th | Apr. 11, 1921 | Mar. 3, 1923 |
| 68th | Dec. 3, 1923 | Mar. 3, 1925 |
| 69th | Dec. 7, 1925 | Mar. 3, 1927 |
| 70th | Dec. 5, 1927 | Mar. 3, 1929 |
| 71st | Apr. 15, 1929 | Mar. 3, 1931 |
| 72d | Dec. 7, 1931 | Mar. 3, 1933 |
| 73d | Mar. 9, 1933 | June 18, 1934 |
| 74th | Jan. 3, 1935 | June 20, 1936 |
| 75th | Jan. 5, 1937 | June 16, 1938 |
| 76th | Jan. 3, 1939 | Jan. 3, 1941 |
| 77th | Jan. 3, 1941 | Dec. 16, 1942 |
| 78th | Jan. 6, 1943 | Dec. 19, 1944 |
| 79th | Jan. 3, 1945 | Aug. 2, 1946 |
| 80th | Jan. 3, 1947 | Dec. 31, 1948 |
| 81st | Jan. 3, 1949 | Jan. 2, 1951 |
| 82d | Jan. 3, 1951 | July 7, 1952 |
| 83d | Jan. 3, 1953 | Dec. 2, 1954 |
| 84th | Jan. 5, 1955 | July 27, 1956 |
| 85th | Jan. 3, 1957 | Aug. 24, 1958 |
| 86th | Jan. 7, 1959 | Sept. 1, 1960 |
| 87th | Jan. 3, 1961 | Oct. 13, 1962 |
| 88th | Jan. 9, 1963 | Oct. 3, 1964 |
| 89th | Jan. 4, 1965 | Oct. 22, 1966 |
| 90th | Jan. 10, 1967 | Oct. 14, 1968 |
| 91st | Jan. 3, 1969 | Jan. 2, 1971 |
| 92d | Jan. 21, 1971 | Oct. 18, 1972 |
| 93d | Jan. 3, 1973 | Dec. 20, 1974 |
| 94th | Jan. 14, 1975 | Oct. 1, 1976 |
| 95th | Jan. 4, 1977 | Oct. 15, 1978 |
| 96th | Jan. 15, 1979 | Dec. 16, 1980 |
| 97th | Jan. 25, 1981 | Dec. 23, 1982 |
| 98th | Jan. 3, 1983 | Oct. 12, 1984 |
| 99th | Jan. 3, 1985 | Oct. 18, 1986 |
| 100th | Jan. 6, 1987 | Oct. 22, 1988 |

# Appendix G

## FINDING AIDS FOR RECORDS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### PUBLISHED

1. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the United States House of Representatives, 1789-1946* (PI 113). 2 vols. Compiled by Buford Rowland, Handy Fant, and Harold Hufford. Washington: NARS, 1959.

2. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives on Foreign Aid, 1947-48* (PI 111). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1958.

3. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of Certain Committees of the House of Representatives Investigating the Disposal of Surplus Property, 1946-48* (PI 65). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1954.

4. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives to Investigate Air Accidents, 1941-43* (PI 67). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1954.

5. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the House Committee on the Civil Service Pertaining to the Investigation of Civilian Employment in the Federal Government* (PI 69). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1954.

6. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives on Post-War Military Policy, 1944-46* (PI 70). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1954.

7. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives Investigating National Defense Migration, 1940-43* (PI 71). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1954.

8. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives Relating to an Investigation of the War Department, 1934-36* (PI 80). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1955.

9. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee of the House of Representatives to Investigate Acts of Executive Agencies Beyond the Scope of Their Authority, 1943-46* (PI 84). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1955.

10. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the House of Representatives Select Committee to Investigate Real Estate Bondholders' Reorganizations, 1934-38* (PI 96). Compiled by Jose Lizardo. Washington: NARS, 1956.

11. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives: Subcommittee on the Works Progress Administration, 1939-41* (PI 107). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1958.

12. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the House of Representatives Select Committee of Inquiry into Operations of the United States Air Services, 1924-25* (PI 108). Compiled by George Perros. Washington: NARS, 1958.

13. National Archives and Records Service. *Printed Hearings of the House of Representatives Found Among Its Committee Records in the National Archives of the United States, 1824-1958* (Special List 35). Compiled by Buford Rowland, Jose D. Lizardo and George P. Perros. Washington: NARS, 1974.

### UNPUBLISHED

1. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Unamerican Activities," 1934-46. Compiled by George P. Perros.

2. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on the Conservation of Wild-Life Resources, 1934-46." Compiled by George P. Perros.

3. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee Investigating Commodity Transactions, 1947-48." Compiled by Thomas W. Ray.

4. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee Investigating the Federal Communications Commission, 1948." Compiled by Ralph E. Huss.

5. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee Investigating Lobbying Activities, 1949-50." Compiled by George P. Perros.

6. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee Investigating the Use of Chemicals in Food Products, 1950-72." Compiled by Jose D. Lizardo.

7. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Campaign Expenditures, 1943-46." Compiled by George P. Perros.

8. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Campaign Expenditures, 1948-53." Compiled by George P. Perros.

9. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Campaign Expenditures, 1953-55." Compiled by George P. Perros.

10. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Campaign Expenditures, 1957-58." Compiled by Howard Wehman.

11. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Campaign Expenditures, 1960." Compiled by Charles E. South.

12. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Campaign Expenditures, 1962." Compiled by Charles E. South.

13. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee to Investigate Foundations and their Organizations, 1951-53, and the House Special Committee to Investigated Tax Exempt Foundations and Comparable Organizations, 1953-55." Compiled by George P. Perros.

14. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Reconstruction, 1867-71." Compiled by Geoge P. Perros.

15. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee on Communist Aggression, 1953-55." Compiled by George P. Perros.

16. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Select Committee to Investigate Educational, Training, and Loan Guaranty Programs under the G.I. Bill, 1950-52." Compiled by George P. Perros.

17. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Committee on War Claims, Records relating to the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-80." Compiled by Jose Lizardo.

18. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Committee on Appropriations, Special Subcommittee to Investigate Disloyal Civil Servants, 1943." Compiled by George P. Perros.

19. "Preliminary Inventory of the Records of the Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, 80th-87th Congresses." Compiled by Jose Lizardo

## PUBLISHED FINDING AIDS FOR RECORDS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS

1. National Archives and Records Service. *Hearings in the Records of the U.S. Senate and Joint Committees of Congress* (Special List 32). Compiled by Charles E. South and James C. Brown. Washington: NARS 1972.

2. National Archives and Records Service. *Preliminary Inventory of Records of the Joint Congressional Aviation Policy Board, 1947-48* (PI 74). Compiled by Watson G. Caudill and George P. Perros. Washington: NARS, 1954.

## UNPUBLISHED FINDING AIDS FOR RECORDS OF JOINT COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS

1. A stack reference list of the Senate Collection of Joint Committee Records.

2. A stack reference list of the House Collection of Joint Committee Records.

3. National Archives and Records Service. "Preliminary Inventory of Records of the Joint Committee to Investigate the Tennessee Valley Authority, 1938-39." Compiled by Sidney Goldman.

4. National Archives and Records Service. "Preliminary Inventory of Records of the Joint Committee to

Investigate the Pearl Harbor Attack, 1945-46." Compiled by George P. Perros.

5. National Archives and Records Service. "Preliminary Inventory of Records of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, 1947-77." Compiled by George P. Perros and James C. Brown.

6. National Archives and Records Service. "Preliminary Checklist of Records of the Joint Committee to Investigate Dirgible Disasters, 1933" (PC 47-1). Compiled by Thayer M. Boardman.

## Appendix H

### MICROFORM PUBLICATIONS OF RECORDS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1. National Archives and Records Service. *Hearings of the House Select Committee that Investigated the Race Riots in East St. Louis in 1917.* M1167. 7 rolls.

2. National Archives and Records Administration. *Unbound Records of the U.S. House of Representatives, Eighth Congress (1803-1805).* M1404. 5 rolls.

3. National Archives and Records Administration. *Barred and Disallowed Case Files of the Southern Claims Commission, 1871-1880.* M1407. 4,289 microfiche.

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